

Travel bubble bursts: 14 passengers detained in Melbourne after flying into Sydney

16 Oct, 2020 09:17 PM

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(New Zealand Herald, 2020b)

Signs to greet passengers into the international arrivals area at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport after landing on Air New Zealand flight number NZ103 from Auckland. Photo / Getty Images

NZ Herald



Fourteen passengers have been detained in Melbourne after they arrived from New Zealand under the trans-Tasman bubble arrangements.

The ABC understands the passengers flew to Sydney and got a connecting flight to Melbourne.

Melbourne is currently not accepting international travellers, with the travel bubble only including NSW and Northern Territory.



A woman wears a facemask as she hugs her loved one after arriving from NZ into the international arrivals area at Sydney's Kingsford Smith Airport. Photo / Getty Images

Australian Border Force (ABF) has been contacted for comment.

Travellers on the first commercial flight from New Zealand in seven months landed in Sydney this afternoon - in the first phase of a trans-Tasman travel bubble.

There were emotional scenes at Sydney International Airport as families were finally reunited after the bubble opened overnight.

Passengers on board the Air New Zealand flight touched down at midday.

#BREAKING: Fourteen passengers have been detained in Melbourne after they arrived from New Zealand as part of the trans-Tasman bubble arrangements.

The ABC understands the passengers flew to Sydney and got a connecting to flight to Melbourne.

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Kiwi passengers will not have to enter hotel quarantine upon arrival. A Jetstar flight and a Qantas flight were also due to land today.

The arrivals mark a welcome development in international travel arrivals, with Australia's border being closed to international arrivals since March.

Under the deal between the two nations, New Zealanders will be allowed to travel quarantine-free into NSW and the Northern Territory if they have not been in a Covid-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days.

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Passengers wearing facemasks as they arrive into the international arrivals area at Sydney. Photo / Getty Images

Upon arrival in Australia, passengers will be separated into green and red zones at the airport, demarcating quarantine-free flights and travellers subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine.

Currently, it is a one-way bubble. Australians will be able to travel across the ditch at a later, still undetermined date.



Tom Minear
@tminear



Breaking: 14 Kiwis who travelled to NSW in a new "travel bubble" arrangement have managed to slip on a flight to Melbourne where they were intercepted and detained today. More via @Media_Matt on @theheraldsun soon.

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Reaction on social media was swift.

"Why anyone would come to melb at this time I don't know," wrote another, in reference to the months-long Covid-19 restrictions in the city, after it was affected by a severe second wave of the virus.

Hey @jacindaardern it didnt take long for a bunch of your 'finest' citizens to break the law in Australia. 14 of them detained for breaking the travel 'bubble' & catching a another flight from SYD TO MEL NOT LONG AFTER THEY ARRIVED IN SYDNEY FROM NZ.

– DD (@ddsmulders) October 16, 2020

Another was more welcoming, posting "Welcome to Hotel Melifornia."

Earlier on Friday afternoon, Scott Morrison said about 230 New Zealanders had arrived in Sydney.

"We have already welcomed our first Kiwis back to Australia for a holiday. That's fantastic," the Prime Minister said.

"Some 230, I understand, were on the flight this morning that has arrived, and I think is just going through customs now as we speak, and there are others who will be coming."

"We welcome those Kiwis, Kia Ora to those Kiwis who've joined us today, I hope you enjoy your holiday in New South Wales or the Northern Territory or the ACT and tell your friends and we're looking forward to seeing more of you."

