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Our ref: AA1000443 Contact officer: Luke Griffin Contact phone: 02 6243 1114

13 September 2019

By email only

Dear Sir/Madam

Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic application for authorisation AA1000443 – Draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic on 3 June 2019.

The ACCC's draft determination proposes to grant authorisation for the applicants to cooperate in relation to services between Australia and the UK/Ireland via a mutual mid-point for a period of five years.

The ACCC provided interim authorisation on 4 July 2019, allowing Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic to engage in their proposed arrangements while the ACCC considers the application for authorisation.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is available on the ACCC's public register.

Next steps

The ACCC invites submissions on the draft determination and/or decision to grant interim authorisation.

Submissions are due by **4 October 2019** by emailing adjudication@accc.gov.au with the subject "AA10000443 – Virgin Australia & Virgin Atlantic – submission". The ACCC will consider any submissions received by this date in making its final decision about whether to re-authorise these arrangements.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication <u>Guidelines for excluding information from the public register</u>.

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to assess the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
3 June 2019	Lodgement of application and supporting submission

4 July 2019	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation
13 September 2019	Draft determination
4 October 2019	Closing date for submissions following draft determination, including any conference if called.
November 2019	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact Luke Griffin on 02 6243 1114.

Yours sincerely

Darrell Channing

Director Adjudication