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Dear Sir/Madam

Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic application for authorisation AA1000443 - interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for authorisation from Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic. The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic (**the Applicants**) are seeking authorisation to enter into and give effect to a formal cooperation agreement which would enable joint pricing, inventory management, scheduling, network planning; and marketing on services between Australia and the United Kingdom and Ireland via mutual mid-points in Hong Kong and Los Angeles (and any other future mutual connecting points that may be operated by the Applicants); the Applicants also propose to cooperate in relation to product alignment, airport operations, joint procurement and tenders for corporate contracts (together, **the Conduct**).

The Applicants submit that authorisation is granted they also intend to extend their existing codeshare agreements, and enhance their existing agreements in relation to lounge access, frequent flyer reciprocity and the recognition of high value guests.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's website www.acc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister. Alternatively, you can contact Robert Janissen on 02 6243 1387 to obtain a hard copy of the application and submission.

Interim authorisation

The Applicants have requested interim authorisation to make and give effect to arrangements that would enable the Conduct.

The ACCC endeavours to deal with requests for interim authorisation quickly. In making an assessment as to whether it is appropriate to grant interim authorisation, the ACCC is not required to undertake a full assessment of the benefit and detriment likely to arise as a result of the proposed conduct.

The ACCC decides whether to grant interim authorisation on a case by case basis. Should an applicant request interim authorisation, the ACCC will usually consider a range of factors, including harm to the applicant and other parties if interim is or is not granted, possible benefit and detriment to the public, the urgency of the matter and whether the market would be able to return to substantially its pre-interim state if the ACCC should later deny authorisation.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the Applicants' application for authorisation, please do so by **28 June 2019**.

Submissions in relation to interim authorisation should be provided by **21 June 2019**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject AA1000443 – Virgin Australia and Virgin Atlantic – submission'.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Robert Janissen on 02 6243 1387 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including oral submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information

3 June 2019	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
7 June 2019	Public consultation process begins.
21 June 2019	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
28 June 2019	Closing date for submissions on substantive authorisation.
July 2019	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
July 2019	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
September 2019	Draft determination.
September/October 2019	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
November 2019	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application. A list of the interested parties contacted by the ACCC is **enclosed** with this letter.

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 Robert Janissen on 02 6243 1387 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Adjudication

Interested Party List

Qantas
Cathay Pacific Airways
Hong Kong Airlines
Air China
China Airlines
China Southern Airlines
HK Express
Hainan airlines
Emirates
Aer Lingus
Lufthansa
KLM
Jetstar Airways Limited
Air France
Malaysia Airlines
Regional Express (Rex)
Singapore Airlines Ltd
AirAsia X
China Eastern
China Southern
Sichuan Airlines
Xiamen Airlines
Air Mauritius
Air New Zealand
British Airways
Etihad Airways
LAN Airlines
Qatar Airways
Regional Express (Rex)
Solomon Airlines
Tiger Airways
United Airlines
Delta Air Lines, Inc
Hawaiian Air
Aerolineas Argentinas
Air China
Royal Brunei
Thai Airways
Airports
Adelaide Airport
Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd
Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited
Canberra Airport
Melbourne Airport
Northern Territory Airports Pty Ltd / Darwin Airport
Perth Airport
Queensland Airports Limited
Sydney Airport
Cairns Airport
Hobart Airport
Hong Kong International Airport
Wellington International Airport
Govt depts, ministers
Airport Coordination Australia (ACA)

Airservices Australia
Australian Transport Safety Bureau
Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
International Air Services Commission
Tourism Australia
Tourism NSW
Tourism Queensland
Tourism Victoria
Tourism WA
Austrade
South Australian Tourism Commission
Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce
Key Wellington Stakeholders
Industry Associations
Australian & International Pilots Association
Australian Airports Association (AAA)
Australian Federation of Travel Agents
Australian Industry Group
Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association
Australian Services Union
Australian Tourism Export Council
Australian Chamber – Tourism (formerly the National Tourism Alliance)
Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA)
Transport Workers Union
Virgin International Pilots Association
Catering
Alpha Flight Services
AVIA Flight Services
Executive Gourmet
Gate Gourmet
Fuel Supplier
Caltex
ExxonMobil Aviation
Ground handling provider
Aero-Care
Gate Aviation
Menzies Aviation
Patrick Air Services
Toll Dnata
Wymap Group
Other IPs
Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation
CHOICE
Consolidated Travel Group
Consumer Action Law Centre
Consumers' Federation of Australia
Fed Ex
K.I.S.S. Travel International
AVIA Flight Services
International Air Services Commission