



Land of the Ngunnawal people  
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By email

Dear Interested Party

**Re: Virgin Australia Airlines Pty Ltd & Ors - Application for authorisation AA1000679 – Interested party consultation**

On 11 October 2024, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from Virgin Australia Airlines Pty Ltd, Virgin Australia International Airlines Pty Ltd (together, **Virgin Australia**) and Qatar Airways Group Q.C.S.C (**Qatar Airways**), together the **Applicants**. This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways are seeking authorisation under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). Authorisation would give the Applicants legal protection from competition laws to engage in cooperative conduct under an integrated alliance including with respect to services, capacity, schedules, pricing, sales, marketing loyalty programs, services standards, lounge access, joint procurement of related services and information sharing. Subject to certain exceptions, Qatar Airways will become Virgin Australia's exclusive interline, codeshare and loyalty partner headquartered in the Middle East or Türkiye and Virgin Australia will become Qatar Airways' exclusive interline, codeshare and loyalty partner headquartered in Australia.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation for a period of 5 years. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

For information about authorisations more generally, please see the [ACCC website](#).

**Interim authorisation**

Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways have also requested interim authorisation to commence the integrated alliance prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for authorisation.

**Making a submission**

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **7 November 2024**. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into

account. Submissions in relation to interim authorisation should be provided by **31 October 2024**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register on the internet](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register. (See [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register](#) for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests).

### **Timetable**

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out on the public register.

This email has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Lynette Lynders on (02) 9230 9132 or via [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

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### **Tony Hilton**

Director | Competition Exemptions

#### **Australian Competition & Consumer Commission**

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[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)



The ACCC acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and future.

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