



Contact officer: Gavin Jones  
Contact phone: 03 9290 1475

23 Marcus Clarke Street  
Canberra ACT 2601  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601  
tel: (02) 6243 1111

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adjudication@accc.gov.au  
www.accc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Application for authorisation AA1000540 lodged by Qantas Airways Limited and Japan Airlines Co Ltd – interested party consultation**

On 18 December 2020, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from Qantas Airways Limited (**Qantas**) and Japan Airlines Co Ltd (**JAL**), together the Applicants, for a Joint Business Agreement. This letter is to invite you to comment.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation<sup>1</sup> under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). Authorisation would give Qantas and JAL legal protection to enter into the Joint Business Agreement in relation to their operations across a range of routes between Australia/New Zealand and Japan.

The Applicants submit that the Joint Business Agreement will enable them to work together in respect of marketing and sales, pricing, scheduling, distribution strategies and agency arrangements, yield and inventory management, frequent flyer programs, lounges, joint procurement, product and service standards and cargo.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation for the Joint Business Agreement and associated agreements for three years. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

### **Interim authorisation**

The Applicants are also seeking interim authorisation to enter into the Joint Business Agreement. The ACCC will consider the request for interim authorisation at the time of issuing a draft determination about the application.

### **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 **29 January 2021**. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

Please email your submission to [exemptions@accc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@accc.gov.au), with the subject 'AA100540 – Qantas and JAL – submission'. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Gavin Jones via the details at the end of this letter.

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 below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
<b>18 December 2020</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>23 December 2020</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>29 January 2021</b>	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
<b>February 2021</b>	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
<b>March 2021</b>	Draft determination.
<b>March/April 2021</b>	Public consultation on draft determination.
<b>May 2021</b>	Final determination.

This letter 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 me on (03) 9290 1475 or [exemptions@accc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@accc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones  
Director  
Competition Exemptions