



Our ref: AA1000532
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Dear Sir/Madam

Qantas Airways Limited and American Airlines Group Inc. - application for revocation of authorisations A91502 and A91503 and substitution of new authorisation AA1000532 – interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has received an application for revocation of authorisations A91502 and A91503 and substitution of replacement authorisation AA1000532 (**reauthorisation**) from Qantas Airways Limited and American Airlines Group Inc and their related bodies corporate (**Qantas and American Airlines**) in order to continue their trans-Pacific aviation alliance.

This letter is to invite you to comment on the application.

Application for re-authorisation

The conduct for which Qantas Airways Limited and American Airlines Group Inc are seeking reauthorisation is substantially the same as was permitted by authorisations A91502 and A91503 which expire on 18 March 2021. Reauthorisation would allow Qantas and American Airlines to coordinate their operations between Australia/New Zealand and the United States, Canada, and Mexico pursuant to a joint coordination agreement for a further five years (i.e. until November 2025).

A full copy of the application for reauthorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

Qantas and American Airlines have also requested interim authorisation to allow them to facilitate a seamless continuation of the existing joint business into 2021.

The ACCC decides whether to grant interim authorisation on a case by case basis. In doing so, 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's need for interim authorisation; and the extent to which whether the market will change be likely/able to return to substantially its pre-interim authorisation state if the ACCC should later deny authorisation.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for reauthorisation and/or the application for interim 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 on either application, please do so by **20 November 2020**. 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.

Please note the confidentiality or otherwise of your submission and email your submission to exemptions@acc.gov.au, with the subject 'AA1000532 – Qantas and American Airlines – submission'. 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.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
19 October 2020	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
29 October 2020	Public consultation process begins.
20 November 2020	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
December 2020/January 2021	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision.
January/February 2021	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
February/March 2021	Final determination.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

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 exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Competition Exemptions