



23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601

Our ref: AA1000533
Contact officer: Gavin Jones
Contact phone: 03 9290 1475

GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

tel: (02) 6243 1111
exemptions@acc.gov.au

5/03/2021

www.accc.gov.au

By email

Dear interested party,

Virgin Australia and Alliance Airlines – application for authorisation AA1000533 — 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 Alliance Airlines on 23 October 2020.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation until 31 March 2023.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicants or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by 25 March 2021. Submissions should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000533 – Virgin Australia and Alliance Airlines – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact me via the details at the end of this letter.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one be called - see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases the applicants or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to its draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the applicants and interested parties to attend and make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by 25 March 2021 by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Timetable

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

| Indicative date | Stage in assessment process |
|------------------|---|
| 23 October 2020 | Lodgement of application and supporting submission |
| 27 October 2020 | Public consultation process begins |
| 19 November 2020 | Interim Authorisation Decision |
| 5 March 2021 | Draft determination |
| 25 March 2021 | Closing date for submissions regarding draft determination |
| April 2021 | Applicants response to draft determination and issues raised during public consultation |
| April 2021 | 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 me on 03 9290 1475.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Competition Exemptions