



Our ref: AA1000532  
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26 February 2021

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Qantas Airways Limited & American Airlines Inc. application for re-authorisation AA1000532 – Draft Determination and Interim Authorisation**

The ACCC has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for re-authorisation lodged by Qantas Airways Limited & American Airlines Inc. on 19 October 2020.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to re-authorise Qantas and American Airlines to continue their alliance and cooperate operations on routes between and within Australia/New Zealand and the United States, Canada and Mexico (the Trans-Pacific routes) for a further five years.

The ACCC has also granted interim authorisation to allow Qantas and American Airlines to continue their alliance while the ACCC considers the application for re-authorisation.

A copy of the ACCC's determination and summary of its reasons is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

#### **Next steps**

The ACCC invites submissions on the draft determination.

Submissions are due by **12 March 2021** by email to [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au) with the subject "AA10000532 – Qantas and American Airlines – submission". The ACCC will consider any submissions received by this date in making its final decision about whether to re-authorise these arrangements.

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 Applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination. If a conference is called in this matter, it will be open to the Applicant 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 for the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **12 March 2021**. Any request for a conference should be emailed to [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

We prefer to hold a conference in a way that enables attendees to attend in person. In the current circumstances, with the spread of COVID-19 and the need to significantly limit social contact, a face-to-face conference may not be possible. There may be options for the ACCC to hold a conference via webinar or teleconference. If you are considering requesting the ACCC hold a conference please contact us as early as possible to discuss the options for holding a conference before requesting one.

### **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.

<b>Indicative date</b>	<b>Stage in assessment process</b>
<b>19 October 2020</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>29 October 2020</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>20 November 2020</b>	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
<b>26 February 2021</b>	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision.
<b>February/ March 2021</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>March/April 2021</b>	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 Connie Wu on 08 9325 0637.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing  
Director  
Competitions Exemptions