



Our ref: AA1000533  
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Dear Sir/Madam

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## Virgin Australia & Alliance Airlines application for authorisation AA1000533 – interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Virgin Australia and Alliance Airlines (the **Applicants**) on 23 October 2020.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) while the ACCC considers and evaluates the application.

Interim authorisation gives the Applicants legal protection to cooperate on the 41 regional routes and two short-haul international routes identified in their application.<sup>1</sup>

A copy of the interim authorisation decision, including a list of the relevant routes, is attached.

### Next steps

The next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any further submissions from the Applicants and interested parties, and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give both the Applicants and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission on the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

As noted in the attached decision, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. In this regard the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of issuing its draft determination. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

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 Andrew Mahony on 03 9290 1983 or [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Gavin Jones  
Director  
Competition Exemptions

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<sup>1</sup> The application is available on the ACCC's [public register](#).