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By email

Dear Interested Party

Re: Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways application for interim authorisation AA1000679 – Interim authorisation decision

Dear Interested Party

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 Airlines Pty Ltd, Virgin Australia International Airlines Pty Ltd and Qatar Airways Group (Q.C.S.C.) on 11 October 2024. A copy of the ACCC decision is attached.

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 merits of the application.

Next steps

The next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any submissions from applicants and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give both 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 email 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 Jane Black on 08 8946 9612 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

Anthony Hilton
Director
Competition Exemptions