



Ms Amanda Dadd
ACCC
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Dickson ACT 2602

FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:

6 June 2003

Authorisation application lodged by Qantas Airways Limited and British Airways Plc (A30226 and A30227)

Dear Ms Dadd,

The Australasian Business Travel Association (ABTA) appreciates the opportunity to respond in a non-submission format to the above authorisation application on the QF/BA RJSA.

ABTA has reviewed the document and has no objection to Interim Authorisation by the Commission in light of the current economic environment the two airlines are subjected.

ABTA accepts that the Public Benefits outlined in the application are in fact beneficial to members of the association whilst being mindful of the need for both airlines to maintain costs and improve efficiencies.

The JSA has been in effect for seven (7) years. During this period ABTA has not seen or been advised by its members of any past anti-competitive behaviour or public detriment.

The JSA has also been of benefit to those ABTA members who have extensive international travel to regions where the two airlines have network coverage resulting in significant savings and convenience.

ABTA does nevertheless suggest that the Commission maintain continued monitoring of the JSA market power and barriers to entry that may impact on competition resulting in any anti-competitive behaviour in the future.

The documents provided were placed on the ABTA website for member comment. As these comments were not forthcoming, ABTA accepts the decision of its membership and therefore supports authorisation of the RSJA application.

Yours Sincerely

Glenn Buckingham
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CEO of the ABTA

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ACCC C 14:15 06/JUN/03