



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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Our Ref: C2006/2161  
Contact Officer: Isabelle Arnaud  
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31 January 2007

Mr Russell Miller  
Partner  
Minter Ellison  
GPO Box 369  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Miller

**IATA applications for authorisation A91020-A91022  
Request for interim authorisation**

I refer to the above applications for authorisation lodged with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) on 24 November 2006 and 6 December 2006. The applications relate to certain resolutions and decisions of the IATA Passenger Agency Program (IPAP).

The ACCC has decided to grant interim authorisation to the changes to the IPAP resolutions and decisions the subject of the applications, which were due to come into effect on 1 January 2007.

*Summary of considerations*

The ACCC would like to make the following comments with regard to specific resolutions.

Resolution 800b - The ACCC notes IATA's advice that the amendment to the expiry date of this resolution is in line with the planned introduction of 100% electronic ticketing from 1 January 2008. The ACCC understands that the amendment will not prevent airlines who may continue to use paper tickets after this date to issue and distribute their own ticket stock to agents and organise procedures for printing tickets.

Resolution 800f - The ACCC notes IATA's advice that the amendment to section 3 contains a drafting error and that the requirement under this section will be for agents to provide either a bank guarantee or an insurance guarantee. In any event, the ACCC notes IATA's advice that Resolution 800f does not currently apply to Australia.



Resolution 820d – With regard to the amendment providing for the appointment of substitute Travel Agency Commissioners (TACs) in the same manner as TACs, the ACCC notes IATA's advice that the process leading to the creation of a panel of substitute TACs is advanced; but until such time as the panel is established, it is expected that matters involving a substitute TAC will be heard by a TAC appointed for another IATA Conference area.

Resolution 832 - The ACCC notes IATA's advice of 24 January 2007 confirming that only section 3 of this resolution is covered by the present applications. That is, changes to section 1.7.14 of Resolution 832 regarding disputed Agency Debit Memo are not part of the applications.

*Next steps*

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

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 Isabelle Arnaud on 02 6243 1049.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gregson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Gregson  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch