



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Our Ref: A91227 & A91228
Contact Officer: Teresa Nowak
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12 May 2010

*This letter was sent to
the attached list of
interested parties on
12 May 2010. JN*

Dear Sir/Madam

**Virgin Blue Airlines Pty Ltd & ors applications for authorisation A91127 & A91128 -
interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received applications for authorisation from Virgin Blue Airlines Pty Ltd, Pacific Blue Airlines (Aus) Pty Ltd, Pacific Blue Airlines (NZ) Limited (together Virgin Blue) and Air New Zealand Limited (Air New Zealand). The ACCC invites you to comment on the applications. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process, including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Virgin Blue and Air New Zealand are seeking authorisation to make, and give effect to, the Australasian Airline Alliance Agreement, an associated Code Share Agreement and proposed related agreements which are contemplated by the Alliance Agreement (together the Alliance). The Alliance provides for coordination and agreement between Virgin Blue and Air New Zealand in respect of trans-Tasman passenger services.

A full copy of the applications for authorisation and supporting documentation is available on the ACCC's website <www.accc.gov.au>. Alternatively, you can contact Teresa Nowak on (02) 6243 1239 or Jessica Buik on (02) 6243 4940 to obtain a hard copy of the application and supporting documentation.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to Virgin Blue and Air New Zealand's applications for authorisation, please do so by **Wednesday 2 June 2010**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Teresa Nowak on (02) 6243 1239 or Jessica Buik on (02) 6243 4940 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including oral submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the applications in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

6 May 2010	Lodgement of applications and supporting documentation.
12 May 2010	Public consultation process begins.
2 June 2010	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
June 2010	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
August/September	Draft determination.
September/October	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
October	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the applications at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to, please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

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 Teresa Nowak on (02) 6243 1239 or Jessica Buik on (02) 6243 4940.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Adjudication Branch

Application for authorisations A91227 & A91228
Interested Parties Consulted

- Aerolineas Argentinas
- Air Asia X
- Air Canada
- Air China
- Activair Australia
- AFS Projects and Logistics
- American Airlines Inc
- Aircalin
- Air Niugini
- Air Vanuatu
- Ambassador Cargo Management Pty Ltd
- American Express International Inc.
- Asiana Cargo
- Australian Services Union
- Australian Air Express
- Asiana Airlines Inc.
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- CHOICE
- Australian Federation of Air Pilots
- Australian Federation of International Forwarders Ltd
- Australian and International Pilots Association
- Australian Tourism Export Council
- Australian Federation of Travel Agents
- Board of Airline Representatives of Australia
- BTi Logistics Pty Ltd
- Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation
- Cargolux Airlines International S.A.
- Concorde International Travel
- Consolidated Travel Group
- Continental Airlines
- Cathay Pacific Airways
- China Airlines
- China Southern Airlines
- Consumer Action Law Centre
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
- EgyptAir
- Emirates
- FedEx
- Flight Centre Limited
- Garuda Indonesia
- Gulf Air
- Harvey World Travel
- International Air Services Commission
- International Air Transport Association
- Japan Airlines Ltd
- KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
- Korean Air
- Lufthansa German Airlines
- Delta Air Lines
- Pakistan International Airlines
- LAN Airlines
- Malaysia Airlines
- Philippine Airlines
- Polynesian Airlines
- Qantas/Jetstar
- Regional Express Airlines
- Singapore Airlines Ltd
- Skywest Airlines Pty Ltd
- South African Airways
- Solomon Airlines
- STA Travel
- Tiger Airways
- Thai Airways International
- Tourism Australia
- TTF Australia
- UPS
- United Airlines
- Vietnam Airlines
- West Australian Tourism Commission
- Webjet