



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Our Ref: A91247 & A91248
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Dear Mr Woodward

**Virgin Blue Airlines Pty Ltd & others & Etihad Airways applications for authorisation
A91247 & A91248 – interim authorisation decision**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Virgin Blue on 27 August 2010. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached. Also attached is a summary of the authorisation process.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

Next steps

For your information, the next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any 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 wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Roy on (03) 9290 1823 or David Seccombe on (02) 6243 1394.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch