

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 October 2010 10:14 AM  
**To:** Infocentre Public Mailbox  
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PUBLIC REGISTER

Hi ACCC, I must say that I'm disappointed at the rejection of the proposed merger between Air New Zealand and Virgin Blue for the Tasman routes. As it stands there are few direct flights from major Australian capitals to much more than Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington without extensive side trips. E.g. Smaller centres require exhaustive round trips like Melbourne to Brisbane to Dunedin or Melbourne to Brisbane to Hamilton. As the NZ regional centres don't generate enough traffic, a single airline is less likely to make the commitment to travel to them. A combined airline with combined marketing power and the ability to share operational costs would make these routes a more viable commercial option. As a consumer, my feeling is that the ruling denies me the opportunity to travel directly to visit family and friends and actually increases the cost burden due to further travel requirements on arrival in NZ. On these grounds, I hope that you will reconsider the proposed merger. Regards, Grant Edelsten