



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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Our Ref: C2011/427  
Contact Officer: Clare McGinness  
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9 June 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**Qantas Airways Limited and American Airlines Inc. – applications for authorisation  
A91265 & A91266 - interim authorisation decision**

The ACCC has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by Qantas and American Airlines on 12 May 2011. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application. Interim authorisation commences immediately, and will remain in place until the date the ACCC's final determination comes into effect, or until revoked.

**Next steps**

For your information, the next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take into account any submissions from Qantas and American Airlines 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 Clare McGinness on (03) 9290 6909.

Yours sincerely

Darrell Channing  
Director  
Adjudication Branch