



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Our Ref: C2011/536
Contact Officer: Imogen Hartcher-O'Brien
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13 October 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

**Virgin Australia and Singapore Airlines applications for authorisation A91267 &
A91268
- draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by Virgin Australia and Singapore Airlines on 20 June 2011.

Virgin Australia and Singapore Airlines are seeking authorisation for a proposed aviation alliance which comprises an Alliance Framework Agreement, freesale codeshare agreements, a special prorate agreement and reciprocal frequent flyer and lounge agreements.

Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached, including a summary of its reasons. For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for five years.

Next steps

You are invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Submissions should be lodged by **4 November 2011**.

Alternatively, once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicants or any interested party may request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'. A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in

relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination, you must notify the ACCC in writing by **28 October 2011**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

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

Timetable

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

20 June 2011	Lodgement of applications and supporting submission.
24 June 2011	Applicants provide revised public register version of supporting submission.
24 June 2011	Public consultation process begins.
13 October 2011	Draft determination.
October 2011	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
November/December 2011	Final determination.

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 Imogen Hartcher-O'Brien on (02) 6243 1049.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
A/g General Manager
Adjudication Branch