



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

23 Marcus Clarke Street  
Canberra ACT 2601

tel: (02) 6243 1111  
fax: (02) 6243 1199

[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

Our Ref: C2011/1020  
Contact Officer: Imogen Hartcher-O'Brien  
Contact Phone: (02) 6249 1049

22 March 2012

Luke Woodward  
Partner  
Gilbert + Tobin  
2 Park Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Louise Klamka  
Lawyer  
Gilbert + Tobin  
2 Park Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Sent via email: [LWoodward@gtlaw.com.au](mailto:LWoodward@gtlaw.com.au); [LKlamka@gtlaw.com.au](mailto:LKlamka@gtlaw.com.au)

Dear Mr Woodward and Ms Klamka

**Virgin Australia and Skywest Airlines applications for authorisation A91287 and  
A91288 - draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Virgin Australia and Skywest Airlines on 8 December 2011.

**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. The ACCC's assessment is set out in Chapter 4.

**Next steps**

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the applicants or any interested party may make a submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination please lodge your submission by **5 April 2012**.

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 **5 April 2012**.

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.

<b>8 December 2011</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>16 December 2011</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>25 January 2012</b>	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
<b>22 March 2012</b>	Draft determination.
<b>March/April 2012</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>May 2012</b>	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) 6249 1049

Yours sincerely



David Jones  
Director  
Adjudication Branch