

17 December 2014

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
ACCC
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: adjudication@accc.gov.au

Dear Dr Chadwick

A91470 & A91471 – Qantas and China Eastern – Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the applications for authorisation received from Qantas Airways Limited and China Eastern Airlines Corporation Limited (the Applicants) to coordinate their operations between Australia and China as part of a joint coordination agreement (the Proposed Conduct).

Melbourne Airport supports the application.

As noted in the applicants' submission, there has been significant growth in the Australia-China aviation market in recent years. This growth has delivered significant benefits to Melbourne and Victoria through expanded opportunities for tourism, business and education related travel, in addition to additional capacity for high value air freight exports. China is Victoria's most important export market, and the leading source of international overnight visitors. Continued growth in aviation capacity is vital to realising the full potential of these trade and tourism relationships.

As Melbourne Airport has noted in other submissions to Government, priority must be given to expanding overall capacity in aviation between Australia and China including the negotiation of capacity increases in the bilateral air services agreement. We are pleased to note that bilateral discussions are planned for the first quarter of 2015 and Melbourne Airport has made a submission to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to inform Australia's negotiating mandate.

Against this background, Melbourne Airport supports the Proposed Conduct in the interests of facilitating the ongoing growth in aviation traffic between Australia and China and providing air travellers with more choice in services and destinations in both countries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carly Dixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**CARLY DIXON
EXECUTIVE
CORPORATE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS**