



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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13 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

**Virgin Australia and Etihad Airways application for revocation of authorisations  
A91247 - A91248 and substitution of new authorisations A91510 – A91511 –  
interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is conducting a consultation process on applications for revocation and substitution (re-authorisation) received from Virgin Australia Pty Ltd and Etihad Airways (the Applicants) on 6 August 2015.

The Applicants are seeking re-authorisation of their existing international alliance in relation to air transport services between Australia and the Middle East, for a further ten years. Specifically, the applicants seek re-authorisation to:

- continue to give effect to the Commercial Cooperation Agreement and associated codeshare agreements and reciprocal lounge and frequent flyer agreements (the Alliance Agreements) as amended and restated; and
- make and give effect to related agreements contemplated in the Alliance Agreements, including to renew the Alliance Agreements upon the expiration of their current term.

(the Proposed Conduct).

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a potentially interested party, to comment on the applications. Please see the ACCC's publication [Authorisation process - the basics](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

A copy of the application is available on the ACCC's website [www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister](http://www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister).

**Request for submissions**

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the Proposed Conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the applications for authorisation please do so by **10 September 2015**. Submissions should be emailed to [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au) with the subject "A91510 - A91511 – Virgin & Etihad – submission".

Submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

### Timetable

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

<b>Indicative date</b>	<b>Stage in assessment process</b>
6 August 2015	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
13 August 2015	Public consultation process begins.
10 September 2015	Closing date for submissions on the applications for re-authorisation.
30 September 2015	Applicants respond to issues raised in the public consultation process.
October/November 2015	Draft determination.
November 2015	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
December 2015	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the applications at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to, please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence. You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the applications.

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 Luke Griffin on 02 6243 1114 or Hannah Ransom on 02 6243 1255 or by email: [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch

## **Interested Party List**

Adelaide Airport  
Aero-Care  
Aerolineas Argentinas  
Air China  
Air Mauritius  
Air New Zealand  
AirAsia X  
Airport Coordination Australia (ACA)  
Airservices Australia  
Alpha Flight Services  
Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd  
Australian & International Pilots Association  
Australian Airports Association (AAA)  
Australian Federation of Travel Agents  
Australian Industry Group  
Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association  
Australian Services Union  
Australian Tourism Export Council  
Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)  
AVIA Flight Services  
Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (BARA)  
Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited  
British Airways  
Bureau of Meteorology  
Caltex  
Canberra Airport  
Cathay Pacific Airways  
Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation  
China Airlines  
China Eastern Airlines  
China Southern Airlines  
CHOICE

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)  
Consolidated Travel Group  
Consumer Action Law Centre  
Consumers' Federation of Australia  
Delta Air Lines, Inc  
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
Emirates  
Etihad Airways  
Executive Gourmet  
ExxonMobil Aviation  
Fed Ex  
Gate Aviation  
Gate Gourmet  
ICMS  
International Air Services Commission  
Hawaiian Airlines  
Jumpjet Airlines Limited  
K.I.S.S. Travel International  
LAN Airlines  
Malaysia Airlines  
Melbourne Airport  
Menzies Aviation  
National Tourism Alliance  
Northern Territory Airports Pty Ltd  
Patrick Air Services  
Perth Airport Pty Ltd  
Qatar Airlines  
Queensland Airports Limited  
Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA)  
Regional Express (Rex)  
Senator Nick Xenophon  
Singapore Airlines Ltd  
Solomon Airlines

Sydney Airport Corporation Limited  
Tiger Airways Australia Pty Limited  
Toll Dnata  
Tour Hosts Pty Limited  
Tourism Australia  
Tourism NSW  
Tourism Queensland  
Tourism Victoria  
Tourism WA  
Transport Workers Union  
United Airlines  
Virgin Australia Pty Ltd  
Virgin International Pilots Association  
Wymap Group