

14 August 2015

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudications Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email adjudication@acc.gov.au

Dear Dr Chadwick

VIRGIN AUSTRALIA – ETIHAD AIRWAYS AUTHORISATION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application from Virgin Australia and Etihad Airways to re-authorise the various elements of their international airline alliance.

As the ACCC is well aware airline alliances have been an increasing part of the global airline competitive landscape for over a decade. No single carrier has sufficient critical mass in the main international markets to offer the range of services demanded by the modern leisure and business traveller. Hence the prevalence of airline alliances.

The Virgin Australia – Etihad Airways alliance authorised by the ACCC ten years ago appears to have worked well. It continues to offer significant public benefits with no discernible competitive detriment in the competitive Australia – Middle East market.

The application is supported.

Yours sincerely



IAN KEW
Chief Executive Officer