



PERTH AIRPORT

21 August 2015

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager, Adjudication Branch
Enforcement and Compliance Division
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via E-mail: adjudication@acc.gov.au

Dear Dr Chadwick

VIRGIN AUSTRALIA – ETIHAD AIRWAYS RE-AUTHORISATION OF ALLIANCE

Thank you for providing Perth Airport Pty Ltd (PAPL) the opportunity to comment on the application by Virgin Australia (Virgin) and Etihad Airways (Etihad) for the reauthorisation to coordinate their operations on routes between Australia and the Middle East.

PAPL supports the application.

Virgin and Etihad together are important to the Western Australia aviation market. Virgin's regional WA services combined with Etihad's nonstop Perth-Abu Dhabi services provides same day connections and shorter travel times for passengers from regional Western Australia to travel to the Middle East and beyond. This also provides international travellers with online access to regional Western Australian destinations, enhancing convenience and providing passengers with a simple connecting product in Perth.

In late 2015 Virgin will relocate all of the airline's operations to the T1/T2 precinct at Perth Airport, allowing passengers to connect between all Virgin and Etihad flights in one location. Re-authorisation of the alliance between Virgin and Etihad is essential to ensuring this connecting product is a success for both airlines.

Yours faithfully

Scott Norris
**EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER
COMMERCIAL SERVICES**