



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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30 October 2015

Dear Sir / Madam

Virgin Australia and Etihad Airways application for revocation of authorisations A91247 – A91248 and substitution of new authorisations A91510 – A91511 – 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 Etihad Airways on 6 August 2015.

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.

The Applicants have sought re-authorisation to continue their existing international alliance in relation to air transport services between Australia and the Middle East.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for a further five years.

Next steps

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

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **16 November 2015**. "Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "A91510 – A91511 – Virgin-Etihad – submission".

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 **16 November 2015**.

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. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

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.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
6 August 2015	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
13 August 2015	Public consultation process begins.
30 October 2015	Draft determination.
November 2015	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
December 2015	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 Luke Griffin on 02 6243 1114 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch