



22 April, 2015

EJ:JH

Dr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
23 Marcus Clarke Street  
**CANBERRA ACT 2601**

Dear Dr Chadwick

**RE: A91470 & A91471 – Qantas & China Eastern Submission**

I write in support of the proposed Joint Venture between Qantas and China Eastern and respectfully request that the ACCC reviews the negative draft determination.

China is undoubtedly one of Australia's most valuable inbound tourism markets. By 2020, this market has the potential to contribute \$7 to \$9 billion annually. China is now Australia's largest two-way trading partner in goods and services (valued at more than A\$150 billion in 2013), our largest goods export destination (A\$95 billion in 2013) and our largest source of merchandise imports (A\$47 billion in 2013).

As the Federal Member for Herbert I recently joined a trade delegation to China. While there, I discussed the further potential for growing my region's tourism and trade links with China. An important part of developing this tourism sector is granting access and building capacity within the Australian – China market.

As you'll be aware the Australian Government signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China last year. Importantly, the FTA laid a historic foundation for the next phase of Australia's economic relationship with China. The proposed Qantas-China Eastern commercial partnership is consistent with the Australian Government's aviation policy settings and compliments the FTA objectives.

In February this year the Australian Government announced Townsville Airport will be able to support regular international flights. Opening Townsville airport to international flights helps to deliver on the government's commitment to developing northern Australia. This was outlined in a recommendation of the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia's Inquiry report: *Pivot North*. The proposed Joint Venture could improve the market share of Chinese inbound visitors to Queensland. The potential for increased visitor numbers will significantly boost the tourism industry in northern Australia, which will in turn encourage businesses to invest and help unlock my region's full potential.

I hope that you will consider the above and authorise the Qantas-China Eastern commercial partnership.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ewen Jones', with a large loop at the start and a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Ewen Jones MP**  
**Federal Member for Herbert**