

Record of oral submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

Virgin Australia application for authorisation AA1000608

Submission: Anonymous party

Date of submission: 2 May 2022

We wish to see Virgin Australia compete effectively. We are broadly supportive of the proposed authorisation, subject to the following caveats:

- The requested 5-year authorisation period is too long, particularly given the dynamic nature of the airlines industry and the lack of specificity about the identity of potential Partner Carriers.
- The requested authorisation period may act as a disincentive for Virgin Australia to recommence its own international long-haul flights.
- It is unclear whether Partner Carriers may include international airlines that are not members of Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (**BARA**). It is also unclear whether/how Virgin Australia will ensure that confidential pricing information (e.g. airport fees and charges) is not deliberately/inadvertently disclosed between itself and Partner Carriers who are non-BARA members, as a result of the Proposed Conduct.
- It is unclear whether Virgin Australia will seek to transfer, trade or swap its slots (including peak hour slots) at airports with its Partner Carriers in the event that the Proposed Conduct is authorised. Any unused slots that Virgin Australia does not intend to operate should be released back to the slot pool.