

7 May 2020

Our ref: ARC17/1745

Your ref: AA1000478

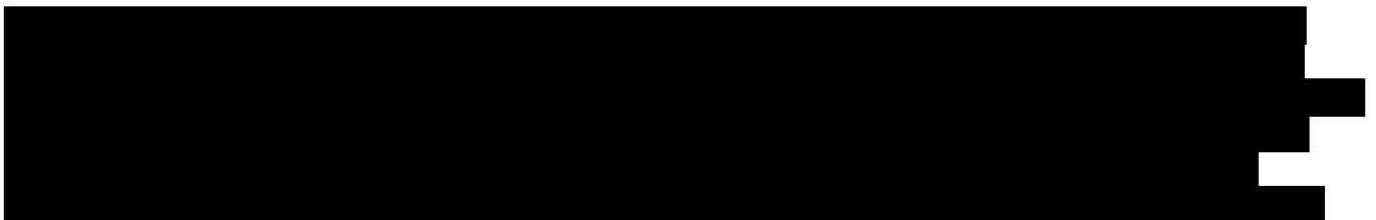
Ms Sophie Ward  
Director  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Via email: [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au)

Dear Ms Ward

**INTERESTED PARTY CONSULTATION – REGIONAL EXPRESS PTY LTD (Authorisation AA1000478)**

We refer to the ACCC's request for comment on the application by Regional Express Pty Ltd to engage with other airlines to coordinate schedules. We request confidentiality apply to our response. Please confirm our response will not be made available for public disclosure.

- 1) To date there has been no impact from the interim authorisation.
- 2) There have been no discernible negative impacts.
- 3) Yes. There is a risk that anti-competitive behaviour will be amplified by reduced and structured airline schedules. This follows reduced choice and range of services. Passengers will have only one RPT service each day compared to multiple carriers and services previously available to consumers.
- 4) 15 months is excessively long. The NSW Northern Tablelands community is reasonably expecting a return to near normal demand within a few months of travel restrictions being lifted. The Sydney/Armidale service is underpinned by a strong university, private education, health, tourism, family connectivity, government services (incl APVMA) utilisation.
- 5) As below.



In summary, any interim authorisation should only be granted on the basis Regional Express Pty Ltd is required to act with goodwill, there is a clear public benefit, REX gives effect to the Federal Government's regional air network subsidisation program, the interim authorisation is as short as possible and there is oversight of its proposed pricing schedule.

We request this submission not be made for public viewing.

Yours sincerely



**Susan Law**  
Chief Executive Officer