

Monday, 13 May 2024

Submission – ACCC – Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand Code share

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter in a personal capacity as a Councillor for the City of Hobart. The views contained are my own and not those of the Council. However, as a representative of the community I seek to add my voice on behalf of my community to provide feedback to the draft determination on the proposed code sharing arrangements on the Trans-Tasman.

Air travel and transit options are of critical importance to an island state such as Tasmania. It goes without saying that the ability to get off island and link up with other communities and travel for either leisure or business is of immense benefit to residents and is highly valued.

Likewise, the ability to have incoming visitors is critical to our local tourism and hospitality sectors who provide a large proportion of the economic activity and jobs for Hobart and Tasmania.

The ability to have airline connections to various and diverse destinations adds to the capacity for Hobartians to travel and likewise for others to come to our shores. It was with great celebration that Hobart welcomed flights directly from New Zealand with an Auckland service being seen pre covid for the first time in some 20 years.

This service has since seen disruption due to COVID, and then further disruption due to technical difficulties encountered by Air New Zealand with their Pratt & Witney engine maintenance program. It is obvious that the service is relatively marginal and with capacity constraints it was one of the routes that was suspended.

The proposed code share arrangement will, at the margin, increase the desirability for Velocity frequent flyers and Virgin Australia flyers to access the Air New Zealand network on Trans-Tasman flights. For cities such as Hobart to be able to link and directly fly to alternative destinations other than the 'hubs' of Melbourne and Sydney provides benefits in cost, time, and emissions reduction. This proposed arrangement should, all else equal, make these type of direct Trans-Tasman services more viable.

I would support the proposed Code Share Agreement and note the benefits direct services to New Zealand have over needing to travel via mainland Australian Cities.

If have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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