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1 May 2024

By email

Dear Interested Party

Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand - application for authorisation AA1000653—draft determination & interim authorisation

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 Air New Zealand on 17 November 2023.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 5 years. The ACCC also granted interim authorisation to the Applicants for the proposed conduct, except that interim authorisation does not extend to the direct or indirect marketing, provision of offers or sale of fares to customers (including corporate and SME customers).

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

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'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **8 May 2024**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Anna Pound via the details at the end of this letter.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one be called - see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

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](#).

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases, the applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to its draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the applicant and interested parties to attend and 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 **15 May 2024** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

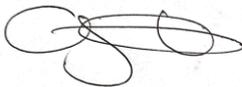
Timetable

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
1 May 2024	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision.
May 2024	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
May 2024	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
May 2024	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 Anna Pound on (03) 9290 6920 or by email anna.pound@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tony Hilton
Director
Competition Exemptions