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15 September 2023

Dear Interested Party

## **Qantas and China Eastern application for revocation of authorisation AA1000524 and substitution of new authorisation AA1000624 – draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for revocation and substitution of authorisation lodged by Qantas Airways Limited and China Eastern Airlines Corporation Limited (together, the **Applicants**) on 9 November 2022.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to deny authorisation to enable the Applicants and their related bodies corporate to continue to coordinate their operations between Australia and China by giving effect to their Extended Joint Coordination Agreement until 31 March 2024.

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

### **Making a submission**

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **6 October 2023**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the [public register](#) for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Jack Foley 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 Applicants 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 **29 September 2023** 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.

<b>Indicative date</b>	<b>Stage in assessment process</b>
<b>9 November 2022</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>5 December 2022</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>25 January 2023</b>	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
<b>February 2023</b>	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
<b>30 March 2023</b>	Interim Authorisation.
<b>15 September 2023</b>	Draft determination.
<b>September – October 2023</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>October – November 2023</b>	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 Jack Foley on (07) 3811 9294 or by email at [exemptions@accc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@accc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tony Hilton  
Director  
Competition Exemptions