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Our ref: AA1000625 Contact officer: Gemma Smith Contact phone: (03) 9290 1405

5/12/2022

**Dear Interested Party** 

## Qantas and Emirates application for revocation of authorisation AA1000400 and substitution of new authorisation AA1000625 – interested party consultation

On 7 November 2022, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for re-authorisation (revocation and substitution) from Qantas Airways Limited and Emirates (together, the **Applicants**). This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

The Applicants are seeking re-authorisation<sup>1</sup> under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). Re-authorisation would give the Applicants legal protection from competition laws to continue to coordinate their operations under a Restated Master Coordination Agreement (**Restated MCA**). The Applicants are seeking re-authorisation until at least 31 March 2028.

The current application relates to the same conduct previously authorised, except the Applicants are seeking the removal of the condition imposed in authorisation AA1000400. A full copy of the application for re-authorisation is available on the ACCC's <u>authorisations</u> <u>public register</u>.

## Interim authorisation

The Applicants have also requested interim authorisation to allow it to continue to coordinate their operations under the Restated MCA prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for re-authorisation.

## Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for re-authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **25 January 2023**. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into account.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For information about Authorisations, please see <a href="https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation">https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation</a>

Please email your submission to <a href="mailto:exemptions@accc.gov.au">exemptions@accc.gov.au</a>, with the subject 'AA1000625 – Qantas & Emirates – submission'. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Gemma Smith via the details at the end of this letter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's <u>authorisations public register on the internet</u> unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register (see <u>Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public</u> Register for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests).

## **Timetable**

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
7 November 2022	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
5 December 2022	Public consultation process begins.
25 January 2023	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
February 2023	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
February/March 2023	Draft determination and ACCC decision on interim authorisation request.
March/April 2023	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
April/May 2023	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Gemma Smith on (03) 9290 1405 or gemma.smith@accc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Tony Hilton Director

Competition Exemptions