

### **Submission by Akash Deokar-11 October 2023**

Dear Assistant Commissioner, apologies for a late submission. I wish the ACCC reconsiders its proposal to deny further coordination between Qantas and China Eastern. Their coordination greatly benefits frequent flyer members (like me and my family) by: 1. enabling access to the Qantas reward flights to and from Australia and China. Such reward flights are much cheaper than the fares paid with cash. For instance, I recently booked a business reward flight using Qantas points for my in-laws to fly direct from Sydney to Wuhan end of March on a China Eastern flight. The total cost of this booking was only \$200 (to cover airport taxes). Without their coordination, I would have paid more than \$9000 before taxes. 2. having access to direct flights from Sydney to smaller cities in China such as Wuhan and Nanjing. Currently, China Eastern offers 3 weekly daily flights to these cities. Without Qantas cooperation with China Eastern, travellers such as myself would need to fly to a major city such as Shanghai and then take a domestic connecting flight to Wuhan.