



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

GPO Box 3131 Canberra ACT 2601
23 Marcus Clarke Street Canberra ACT
tel: (02) 6243 1111 fax: (02) 6243 1199
www.accc.gov.au

NEWS RELEASE

ACCC PROPOSES TO AUTHORISE QANTAS AND AMERICAN AIRLINES JOINT BUSINESS AGREEMENT

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission today issued a draft decision proposing to grant authorisation for a Joint Business Agreement (JBA) between Qantas and American Airlines.

Under the JBA, the airlines will coordinate operations on services between Australia/New Zealand and the United States (the trans-Pacific routes), and on their respective services which support the trans-Pacific routes.

"The ACCC considers that the JBA is likely to result in new and improved products and services, including improved schedules and connectivity," ACCC chairman Rod Sims said.

"The ACCC does not consider that the JBA will have any anti-competitive effects, as Qantas and American Airlines do not currently provide any overlapping direct services between Australia and the United States."

The ACCC has previously authorised an alliance between Virgin Australia and Delta Airlines on routes between Australia and the United States.

Authorisation provides immunity from court action for conduct that might otherwise raise concerns under the competition provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*. Broadly, the ACCC may grant an authorisation when it is satisfied that the public benefit from the conduct outweighs any public detriment.

The ACCC will now seek further submissions from the applicants and interested parties in relation to this draft determination prior to making a final decision. The applicants or interested parties may also request that a conference be held to make oral submissions on the draft determination.

The ACCC's draft determination will be available from the ACCC's public register at www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister.

Media inquiries

Mr Rod Sims, chairman, (02) 6243 1108 or 0408 995 408

General inquiries

Infocentre: 1300 302 502

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