



Australian Government

International Air Services Commission

Mr Tony Wheelens
Manager, Government Relations
Virgin Blue Group
PO Box 1034
Spring Hill QLD 4004

Dear Mr ~~Wheelens~~ *Tony*

I refer to the application from Virgin Blue International Airlines Pty Ltd (V Australia) dated 12 August 2009 for passenger capacity on the Fiji route. As you are aware, the Qantas Group (Qantas) has notified the Commission of its intention to apply for passenger capacity on this route and will make its initial application shortly.

As the application from Qantas will create a competitive situation, the Commission will assess both applications against the public benefit criteria contained in paragraph 5 of the Minister's Policy Statement, as well as against the paragraph 4 criteria.

I would like to invite V Australia to address the paragraph 5 criteria by cob 8 September 2009. I have also written to Qantas inviting it to address the paragraph 5 criteria by this date.

Once these responses have been received, the Commission will invite submissions from other interested parties about both applications on 9 September 2009. Interested parties will have until 16 September 2009 to notify an intention to make a submission and until 23 September 2009 to lodge the submission.

In contested cases the Commission's usual practice is to issue a draft determination, enabling comment from the affected parties before a final determination is made. It is likely to do so in this case.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions. A copy of this letter will be placed on the Commission's register of public documents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Bird'.

Michael Bird
Executive Director

25 August 2009