



Australian Government
International Air Services Commission

Ms Jane McKeon
Head of Government and International Relations
Qantas Airways Limited
203 Coward St
Mascot NSW 2020

Dear Ms McKeon *Jane*

I refer to your letter dated 20 August 2009 advising of the intention of the Qantas Group (Qantas) to apply for an allocation of passenger capacity on the Fiji route in response to the Commission's advertisement of the Virgin Blue International Airlines Pty Ltd (V Australia) application for passenger capacity on this route. I confirm that your initial application should be made by cob 27 August 2009.

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 Qantas to address the paragraph 5 criteria by cob 8 September 2009. I have also written to V Australia 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

Michael Bird

Michael Bird
Executive Director

25 August 2009