

15 May 2014

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Ms Marlene Tucker
Executive Director
International Air Services Commission
PO Box 630
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Tucker



Application for Variation – Tonga route

As part of the strategic alliance between Virgin Australia and Singapore Airlines, Singapore Airlines intends to offer code share services on flights operated by Virgin Australia on the Tonga route. This alliance has been authorised by both the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Competition Commission of Singapore.

We note that a confidential copy of the latest version of the code share agreement between Virgin Australia and Singapore Airlines is held by your office.

Variation sought

Virgin Australia requests a variation to Determination [2009] IASC 130 (as varied by Decision [2011] IASC 218) and Determination [2013] IASC 113 held by Virgin Australia Airlines (SE Asia) Pty Ltd to permit the utilisation of capacity for code share services with Singapore Airlines on the Tonga route.

IASC Act and Minister's Policy Statement considerations

We request that the Commission consider this application against the general criteria for assessing the benefit to the public in Paragraph 4 of the Minister's Policy Statement.

The Paragraph 4 criteria provide that the use of entitlements by an Australian carrier under a bilateral air services agreement is of benefit to the public, provided that the carrier is reasonably capable of obtaining the necessary approvals and implementing the proposal.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Lee-Anne Tomkins on (02) 8093 7114.

Yours sincerely



Lee-Anne Tomkins
Manager, Government and International Relations