

15 November 2012

www.virginaustralia.comMs Marlene Tucker
Executive Director (A/g)
International Air Services Commission
PO Box 630
CANBERRA ACT 2601Dear Ms Tucker **Application for Variation to Determination [2009] IASC 133 – Thailand route**

As part of the strategic alliance between Virgin Australia and Etihad Airways, Etihad Airways intends to offer code share services on flights operated by Virgin Australia on the Thailand route. The Commission is aware that this alliance has been authorised by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Variation sought

Virgin Australia requests a variation to Determination [2009] IASC 133 (as varied by Decision [2011] IASC 205) held by Virgin Australia Airlines (SE Asia) Pty Ltd to permit the utilisation of capacity for code share services with Etihad Airways on the Thailand route.

Your office holds a signed copy of Virgin Australia's confidential code share agreement with Etihad Airways.

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