

Date >> 2 March 2018

Ms Marlene Tucker  
Executive Director  
International Air Services Commission  
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Dear Ms Tucker

## **Re: Qantas application for variation – Papua New Guinea route**

I refer to the application on the International Air Services Commission of 16 February 2018 where Qantas is wishing to apply for an extension of the authorisations permitting it to code share with Air New Guinea on the Papua New Guinea route from Townsville.

Air New Nuigini commenced flights between Townsville and Papua New Guinea on 31 March 2017 with connections on to Manilla and Hong Kong. The provision of these services means Townsville locals no longer have to travel further to access these international destinations.

Townsville and Papua New Guinea have had a long history that continues to develop. Port Moresby is Townsville's oldest sister city, established in 1983. Since that time, significant economic development has occurred between the two centres with some \$500 million in two-way trade now flowing between our ports.

Townsville has very strong contacts with Port Moresby due to the strong business relations and the proximity of the two centres. The presence of Youth With a Mission (YWAM) training campus in Townsville and their medical ships that focus on Papua New Guinea, is one such example of the strong linkage between the two regions.

Both Townsville and PNG are keen to see the air service between the two locations survive and thrive. An expansion of the code share arrangement with Qantas on this route will increase the viability of the service and ensure it is sustainable in the long term.

# TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL



The route between Townsville and Port Moresby will always remain a low volume route that will only support one carrier. Putting a codeshare on it will not result in an anti-competitive situation. Instead, I believe approval of the proposed code share is highly desirable and will maximise consumer choice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adele Young".

**Adele Young MBA, MMkt**  
Chief Executive Officer