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Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts**

Ms Genevieve Butler
Chairperson
International Air Services Commission (IASC)

Genevieve
Dear Ms Butler

Thank you for your letter of 28 January 2025, seeking the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts advice on the Australia – Qatar air services arrangements.

Virgin Australia International Airlines Pty Ltd. (Virgin Australia) is currently designated as an Australian international airline under the Australia – Qatar Air Services Agreement and hold an International Airline Licence which allows for operations between Australia and Qatar.

Under the current air services arrangements, designated airlines of Australia may operate services using leased aircraft (dry-leasing) or leased aircraft and crew (wet-leasing), provided the operating aircraft and crew comply with all operational standards and requirements, including on aviation safety and security.

In addition, the air services arrangements allow designated airlines to enter into code-share arrangements as both the marketing or operating airline, with airlines of Australia, Qatar or a third country. It is important that airlines involved in code-sharing arrangements make it clear to the traveller at the point of sale, which airline will actually operate each sector of the service and which airline the traveller is entering into a contractual relationship with.

Based on the information provided, Virgin Australia's proposed operations are allowed for under the Australia – Qatar bilateral air services arrangements.

Virgin Australia will need to apply to the Department for timetable approval to operate these services under the *Air Navigation Regulation 2016*. The Department will only approve an Australian airlines timetable application if they hold an allocation of capacity from the IASC and they meet Australia's aviation safety and security requirements.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jim Wolfe'.

Jim Wolfe
Assistant Secretary
International Aviation

7 February 2025

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