



30 January 2024

Sonya van de Geer
Principal Adviser, Economic Regulation
Ministry of Transport
Wellington

Via email at s.vandeger@transport.govt.nz and airservices@transport.govt.nz

Kia ora koutou

Queenstown Airport appreciates the opportunity to comment on the application by Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia to enter into a code share agreement.

The availability of efficient trans-Tasman air connectivity is important to New Zealand and Australia. Genuine competition between airlines is vital for consumers, therefore we support the role of the regulator in analysing the proposed partnership to ensure it delivers strong consumer benefits.

We have reviewed the application and our feedback is based on the public version of the Application to the Minister of Transport pursuant to Part 9 of the Civil Aviation Act 1990 for authorisation of the proposed partnership between Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia, noting that a Confidential Annex relating to Queenstown is referred to in the document. Queenstown Airport has not been provided or reviewed this material.

Queenstown Airport notes that Queenstown is excluded from the application and the *Proposed Conduct does not apply to Queenstown services and would cease to apply in relation to a trans-Tasman route if Virgin Australia commences operating or marketing and pricing services in competition with Air New Zealand on that route.*

Accordingly, Queenstown Airport supports the proposed partnership provided that it is not applied to any Queenstown services at any time for the duration of the partnership.

We are happy to respond to any questions the Ministry of Transport may have in relation to this position.

Ngā Mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Sowry', followed by a period.

Glen Sowry

Chief Executive Officer

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