

Ministry of Transport
PO Box 3175
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By email: airservices@transport.govt.nz

Air New Zealand/Air China Reauthorisation Application

Auckland Airport has reviewed the application from Air New Zealand and Air China to the Ministry of Transport for reauthorisation to continue their Strategic Alliance Agreement, which provides for coordination of operations between and within New Zealand and China, until March 2026.

Auckland Airport supports market structure arrangements that are consistent with fair and balanced competition, and which provide clear benefits for travellers – including arrangements that will deliver increased capacity, choice, and quality of service. We consider this is the best way to ensure the continued promotion of competition in international air services that is so vital to the tourism and export sectors and New Zealand's economic prosperity.

Auckland Airport appreciates the economic pressures that airlines operate under, and generally supports initiatives aimed at alleviating these – provided that consumer interests are protected. We do not have any concerns about this particular application and believe it would provide additional connectivity and choice to consumers.

As New Zealand seeks to build back its aviation connections with the world (when the time is right), it will be important to reflect on the geographic and other factors that may hinder airlines from starting or restarting air services. We actively encourage the Ministry to consider ways that it can support initiatives that will encourage airlines to recover and restart air services, including these types of cooperative arrangements where they are beneficial for consumers and supported by appropriate monitoring and oversight.

We note that the full and lasting impact of COVID-19 on the aviation sector is currently unknown, and there is a realistic possibility for material changes to the competitive market dynamics and tensions that have supported good consumer outcomes in the past. This reinforces the importance of the Ministry continuing to monitor market conditions over time and across the total range of codeshare and alliance arrangements in force (including as new arrangements are entered into) to ensure that overall outcomes and trends for travellers and the New Zealand public are positive.

Auckland Airport would appreciate being kept up to date about the progress of this application.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Tasker
General Manager Aeronautical Commercial