



**Australian Government**  
**International Air Services Commission**

**DETERMINATION**

**Determination:** [2026] IASC 103  
**The Route:** Singapore  
**The Applicant:** Qantas Airways Limited  
(ABN 16 009 661 901)  
**Public Register File:** IASC/APP/202602

**The Commission makes a determination allocating to Qantas Airways Limited unlimited freight capacity on the Singapore route, subject to certain conditions. The capacity may be used by either Qantas Airways Limited or its wholly-owned subsidiary, Jetstar Airways Pty Limited. The determination is valid for 99 years from 27 March 2026.**

## **1. The application**

1.1 On 5 March 2026, Qantas Airways Limited (Qantas) applied to the International Air Services Commission (the Commission) for an allocation of unlimited freight capacity and frequency on the Singapore route. Qantas plans to commence all-cargo services between Sydney and Shanghai (China), through to Singapore from 2 April 2026, using Airbus 330F aircraft operated under a wet lease arrangement by its wholly-owned subsidiary, Express Freighters Australia.

1.2 Qantas has requested the capacity allocation on the following basis:

- the allocation is requested for a period of 99 years from the date of the determination;
- the capacity will be fully utilised by 30 June 2026;
- the capacity may be utilised by Qantas, Jetstar or another Australian carrier which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group; and
- the capacity may be used by Qantas to provide joint services with any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group and by any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group to provide joint services with Qantas.

1.3 In accordance with section 12 of the *International Air Services Commission Act 1992* (the Act), the Commission published Qantas' application on the Commission's website on 6 March 2026 inviting other applications for capacity on the Singapore route. No other applications were received.

1.4 All non-confidential material supplied by the applicant is available on the Commission's website ([www.iasc.gov.au](http://www.iasc.gov.au)).

## **2. Air services arrangements**

2.1 Paragraph 7(2)(aa) of the Act provides that the Commission must not allocate available capacity contrary to any restrictions on capacity contained in a bilateral arrangement(s).

2.2 Under the Australia-Singapore air services arrangements, designated Australian airlines have unlimited frequencies and capacity to operate dedicated cargo services between Australia and Singapore.

## **3. Commission's consideration**

3.1 Subsection 12(3) of the Act allows any person to apply to the Commission for a determination allocating capacity to enable an Australian carrier to operate international air services.

3.2 Qantas is seeking the allocation of unlimited freight capacity and frequency on the Australia-Singapore route, to enable Qantas to operate up to two services per week, between Sydney and Shanghai, through to Singapore. As part of its application, Qantas requested permission for the capacity to be used by either Qantas, its wholly-owned subsidiary, Jetstar, or another Australian carrier which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group.

3.3 Subsection 7(1) of the Act empowers the Commission to make a determination allocating available capacity. Subsection 7(2) requires, in part, that the Commission's determination must not allocate capacity unless the Commission is satisfied that the allocation would be of benefit to the public and would not be contrary to any restrictions on capacity contained in bilateral arrangements, or combination of bilateral arrangements.

3.4 Further, subsection 7(3) of the Act provides that in assessing the benefit to the public of an allocation of capacity, the Commission must apply the criteria set out in the policy statements made by the Minister pursuant to section 11 of the Act.

3.5 Pursuant to section 11 of the Act, the Minister issued the International Air Services Commission Policy Statement 2018 (the Policy Statement) which came into effect on 28 March 2018. The Policy Statement sets out the criteria which the Commission is required to apply in assessing the benefit to the public of allocations of capacity.

3.6 Section 11 of the Policy Statement provides that in circumstances where the Commission has received an application for capacity and there is unlimited capacity available for allocation under the relevant bilateral arrangement, the Commission is to have regard to the 'reasonable capability criterion' in section 8 of the Policy Statement and need not have regard to any other matter.

3.7 Under the reasonable capability criterion in section 8 of the Policy Statement, the Commission is required to assess the extent to which all Australian carriers that are, or would be permitted to use the capacity allocated under a determination are reasonably

capable of: (a) obtaining any licences, permits or other approvals required to operate on and service the route to which the determination relates; and (b) using the capacity allocated under the determination.

3.8 The Commission notes that Qantas is an established international carrier which currently operates scheduled international services between Australia and several international destinations, including scheduled international services between Australia and Singapore. Qantas holds an allocation of unlimited freight capacity and frequency on the China route<sup>1</sup>, operating freight services from Sydney to Shanghai and Chongqing. The Commission therefore finds that Qantas is reasonably capable of obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals to operate on the route and of using the proposed capacity allocation.

3.9 Accordingly, the Commission has concluded that Qantas satisfies the criteria under section 8. The Commission, therefore, has decided to allocate the capacity as requested by Qantas.

3.10 Qantas requested the Commission to permit the capacity to be used by Qantas to provide joint services with any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group and by any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group to provide joint services with Qantas. The Commission considers that the proposed joint services on the Singapore route between Qantas and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group would have minimal impact on competition. The Commission, therefore, has decided to include such conditions, as requested by Qantas.

3.11 Subsection 15(1) of the Act empowers the Commission to include such terms and conditions as it thinks fit. Paragraph 15(2)(e) requires the inclusion of a condition stating the extent to which the carrier may use that capacity in joint services with another carrier. In light of this, the Commission has decided to issue this determination subject to the conditions set out in Item 4 below.

3.12 Paragraph 15(2)(a) of the Act requires a determination to specify the period during which it is to be in force. Subsection 15(3) of the Act effectively provides that if the Minister's Policy Statement sets out how the period of validity of the determination is to be fixed, then the period of validity is as so fixed. In any other case, an interim determination is to be in force for three years while a determination that is not an interim determination is to be in force for five years.

3.13 Section 20 of the Policy Statement sets out how the Commission is to fix the period during which a determination is to be in force. The Commission considers that this application is within the scope of subsection 20(2) which provides that 'where capacity is not limited under the relevant bilateral arrangement, the period during which the determination is to be in force should be fixed at 99 years. Accordingly, the Commission has decided that this Determination is to be in force for a period of 99 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Determination [2017] IASC 129 refers

#### **4. Determination allocating capacity on the Singapore route to Qantas Airways Limited ([2026] IASC 103)**

4.1 In accordance with section 7 of the Act, the Commission makes a fresh determination to Qantas Airways Limited, allocating unlimited freight capacity on the Singapore route, in accordance with the Australia-Singapore air services arrangements.

4.2 The Determination is valid for 99 years from 27 March 2026.


4.3 The Determination is subject to the following conditions:

- a) Qantas Airways Limited is required to fully utilise the capacity by no later than 30 June 2026.
- b) The capacity may be utilised by:
  - Qantas Airways Limited; or
  - Jetstar Airways Pty Limited, as long as it remains a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group; or
  - such other wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group the Commission approves in writing, as long as it remains a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group.
- c) Neither Qantas Airways Limited nor another Australian carrier which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group is permitted to utilise the capacity to provide services jointly with another Australian carrier or any other person unless approved by the Commission.
- d) Subject to the preceding condition, the capacity may be used by Qantas Airways Limited to provide joint services with any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group, and by any wholly-owned subsidiary of the Qantas Group to provide joint services with Qantas Airways Limited.
- e) To the extent that the capacity is used to provide joint services on the route, the airlines must take all reasonable steps to ensure that passengers are informed of the carrier actually operating the flight at the time of the booking. Nothing in this determination exempts the airlines from complying with Australian Consumer Law.
- f) Qantas Airways Limited is permitted to utilise the capacity to operate services on the route in accordance with the Wet Lease Agreement between Qantas Airways Limited and Express Freighters Australia Pty Limited dated 10 January 2024.
- g) Qantas Airways Limited must notify the Commission of any proposed variation to the wet lease arrangement between Qantas Airways Limited and Express Freighters Australia Pty Limited that would affect the commercial terms of the agreement, or of any proposal to cease that agreement.

h) Changes in relation to the ownership and control of Qantas Airways Limited are permitted except to the extent that any change:

- results in the designation of the airlines(s) as an Australian carrier under the Australia-Singapore air services arrangements being withdrawn; or
- has the effect that another Australian carrier, or a person (or group of persons) having substantial ownership or effective control of another Australian carrier, would take substantial ownership of Qantas Airways Limited (or the wholly-owned subsidiary) or be in a position to exercise effective control of Qantas Airways Limited (or the wholly-owned subsidiary), without the prior consent of the Commission.

Dated: 27 March 2026

  
GENEVIEVE BUTLER  
Chairperson

  
JANE MCKEON  
Commissioner