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18 October 2022

Ms Jasmina Ackar
Director
International Air Services Commission
PO Box 630
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: Jasmina.Ackar@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Ms Ackar

Application for allocation of capacity – Fiji route

I write on behalf of Virgin Australia International Airlines Pty Ltd (Virgin Australia) to apply for an allocation of additional capacity on the Fiji route.

Virgin Australia recommenced services to Fiji in December 2021 and aside from a period where services were suspended due to emergence of the Omicron variant, demand has steadily recovered. As of October 2022, VA is operating daily services to Nadi (NAN) from Sydney (SYD), five flights per week from Brisbane (BNE), and a further three services per week from Melbourne (MEL).

During the Northern Winter 2022 season, Virgin Australia is planning to fully utilise its capacity through the operation of up to two services a day from SYD, and daily services from both BNE and MEL.

Virgin Australia is currently allocated 4389 seats in each direction on the Fiji route, which enables the operation of 24 full services (4224 passengers) per week utilising B737-800 aircraft (176 seats per aircraft). With Virgin Australia's current capacity allocation limited at a further 165 seats per week in each direction, it is not possible to operate an additional B737-800 service to full capacity.

Additional capacity of 11 seats per week is therefore sought, to enable the operation of 25 full services (4400 passengers) per week during peak periods.

Allocation sought on the Fiji route

To support the plans outlined above, Virgin Australia is seeking an allocation of 11 seats per week on the Fiji route, on the basis that the capacity:

- will be utilised by Virgin Australia;
- is granted for a period of five years from the date of the determination; and
- will be fully utilised by 31 December 2022.



Virgin Australia would be pleased to provide any further information or background on its services to Fiji if required, and thanks the Commission for its consideration of these matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Daffey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Daffey
Head of Government Affairs