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14 February 2003

The Chairman
Commerce Commission
P O Box 2351
Wellington

Fax: 04 9243700

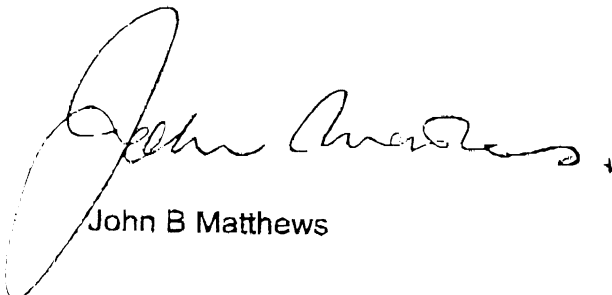
Attention: Mr J Belgrave

Re: Air New Zealand – Qantas

1.0 I strongly object to the proposed Air New Zealand - Qantas deal.

On average I travel weekly within New Zealand and 20 trans Tasman and 15 trans Pacific flights per year.

- 2.0 Persons travelling by air are best serviced by highly competitive routes. I welcome the presence of Origin in New Zealand which has significantly lowered travel costs between New Plymouth and Auckland and New Plymouth and Wellington.
- 3.0 The proposed deal between Air New Zealand and Qantas will do nothing to improve competition on the routes they both service. The end result is inevitably higher prices and, frequently, poorer services.
- 4.0 The best way to service those persons flying within, and to and from New Zealand is to disallow the New Zealand – Qantas deal and furthermore declare an open skies policy to enable any airline that wishes to service New Zealand to be able to do so without regulatory impediments. The time has long gone when Governments should be involved in which airlines fly to which destinations.



John B Matthews