

COMMERCE Commission
Box 25193
CHRISTCHURCH

I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING THE PROPOSED SALE OF A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF AIR NEW ZEALAND TO QANTAS. INDEED OUR GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN APPROVAL TO THE MERGER WHICH OF COURSE PLACES YOU IN AN INVIDIOUS POSITION SINCE SUCH APPROVAL HAVE COME AFTER AND NOT BEFORE YOUR CONSIDERATIONS.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT AS AN ORDINARY NEW ZEALANDER WHO HAS TO PAY HIS OWN WAY WHEN FLYING I AM TOTALLY OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSAL. IT CAN ONLY RESULT IN LESS COMPETITION, HIGHER FARES AND FEWER SERVICES ENSURING BETTER PROFITS FOR BOTH AIRLINES. COMMON SENSE SAYS THAT THAT MUST BE THE RESULT OR NEITHER AIRLINE WOULD HAVE SUGGESTED IT. THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER REASON SINCE NEITHER IS A CHARITY.

FOR THOSE IN HIGH PLACES AND FOR THOSE WHERE FARES ARE PAID FOR THE MATTER MAY BE OF LITTLE RELEVANCE BUT FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE TO PAY THEIR OWN WAY THE REVERSE IS THE CASE PARTICULARLY THOSE ON LOW INCOMES, FIXED INCOMES OR THE RETIRED. THEY RELY ON YOU FOR THEIR DEFENCE, LET THEM NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.

CLIVE M. TULLY

P.S. SHOULD APPROVAL BE GIVEN THEN IT WOULD NEED TO BE ON A CONDITIONAL BASIS THAT IT BECOME EFFECTIVE ONLY ONCE PROPER INDEPENDENT COMPETITION (VIRGIN?) IS UP AND RUNNING TRANS TASMANT AND WITHIN N.Z. UNTIL THAT TIME FARES SHOULD BE FROZEN AND EXISTING SCHEDULES MAINTAINED.

