

# **Value Based Airlines**

### Commerce Commission Conference - QF/Air NZ Alliance

August 2003

# **Objectives / Scope**

### **Objective**

Critique Airlines' assertions on VBA entry and impact

### <u>Scope</u>

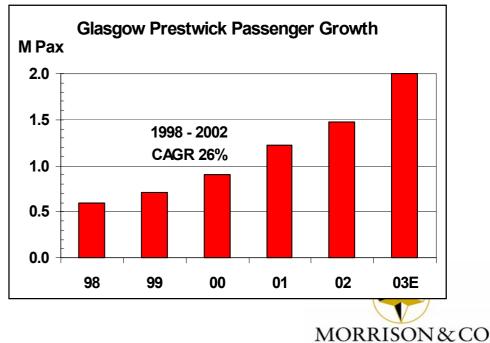
- Overview of Morrison & Co/Infratil aviation activities and experience
- Discuss characteristics of:
  - VBAs
  - NZ aviation market
- Overview of European Aviation Market
  - impact of Low Cost Carriers
- Implications for Network Carriers
  - including Air NZ



# **Morrison & Co airport activities**

- Purchase & management of Perth, Darwin, Alice Springs airports
- Purchase of Wellington Airport
- Seven year involvement in Europe. Numerous projects investigated.
- Acquisition of Glasgow Prestwick in January 2001
  - 2 million pax p.a.
    30% growth for last 3 yrs
  - Ryanair major customer
  - 44,000 tonnes airfreight p.a.
  - Active airline development





# **Applicants' VBA Proposition**

### VBA will enter NZ market

- domestic and Tasman routes
- Virgin Blue most likely candidate
- barriers not material or manageable

### VBA will be successful

- set prices
- erode Air NZ market, yield and profitability
- contribute to Air NZ demise

### Alliance will provide superior result

- benefits exceed anti-competitive effects
- VBA to constrain Alliance across all customer types
- Alliance not to impede entry, extent of constraint or continuing presence

#### QF vs Air NZ proposition not addressed in this submission



# **VBAs – not all the same**

#### Low, Low Cost – Ryanair/Southwest

 all the usual + secondary airports, high direct sell, high prod./low labour cost, strict point to point, av. sector length 800km, no in-flight entertainment, strong commission revenue, etc

#### Low Cost

- **easyJet** primary airports -targets business, UK labour, integrating Go
- AirTran business class, loyalty progr, major a/ps, thru check-in, complementary alcohol/snacks
- jetBlue av. sector length 1840 km, pre-assigned leather seats, 24 channel satellite TV, 50% agent sale, primary and secondary a/ps., loyalty progr., complimentary snacks
- Virgin Blue primary a/ps, 15% agent sales, interline agree., new lounges/AN terminals, considering loyalty progr.



# **NZ Market – Numerous elements**

### International – longhaul

• value (more than price), onboard service/comfort (food/ent.), choice of class, connectivity, loyalty progr, lounges, priority queues, alliance (Star) benefits,

#### International - Tasman

 price, frequency, connectivity (where on-carriage), lesser extent -lounge, loyalty, etc

#### Domestic - trunk

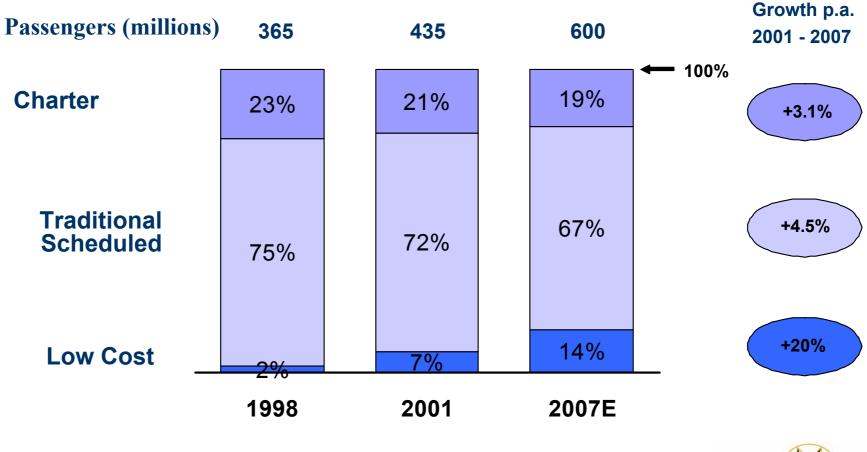
 price, frequency, connectivity (where on-carriage), lesser extent -lounge, loyalty, etc

#### Domestic – regional/provincial

 value (more than price), frequency, connectivity, (lesser extent –lounges, loyalty, etc)



# **Intra European Aviation Market**





Source: AEA, ERA, IATA, Airline Business, Annual Reports, Air Transport World

7

### Low Cost Carrier Market Share & Operating Margins

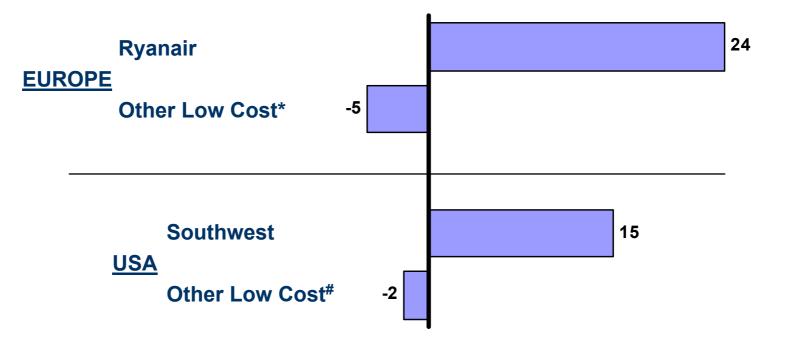
#### **Operating Margin (%)** Low Cost Capacity (%) 100% = 1.6m seats/week 40 Germania **Express** Others 30 **German Wings** Ryanair **Air Berlin** 20 **Virgin Express** Ryanair easyJet 10 HLX 34 (With Buzz) Virgin **FlyBE** 5 0 Express 5 **BMI Baby** -10 DBA -20 29 -30 easyJet 99 2000 01 2002 1998 (With GO)



#### Source: OAG April 2003, Annual Reports, Airline Business

#### 8

# **Operating Margin % (1997 – 2001)**



\*7 European airlines, including: Buzz, easyJet, Go, Virgin Expr, Debonair

# 20 US airlines, including: AirTran, Frontier, jetBlue, Spirit

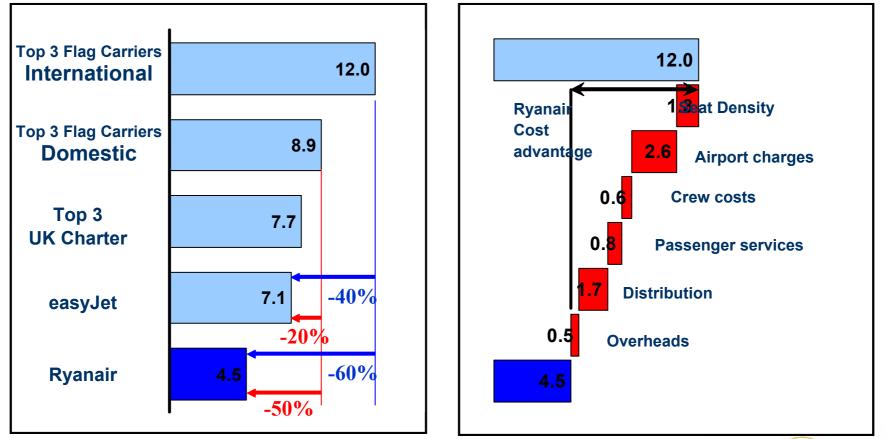
9

Source: McKinsey Qtrly, 2002 No. 4, US Dept of Trans., Annual Reports



# **European Airline Unit Costs**

#### Cost in US Cents / ASK\* for (yr 2001) average stage length (800km)







Source: McKinsey Qtrly, 2002 No. 4, AEA, ICAO, Annual Reports

# **Network Airlines**

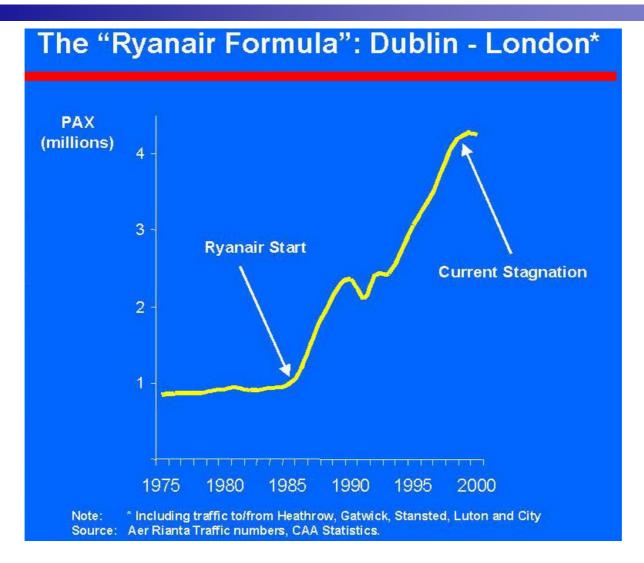
**Domestic Operations typically more cost efficient** 





Source: McKinsey Presentation, Frankfurt Aviation Conf., 8.7.03, AEA, Annual Reports

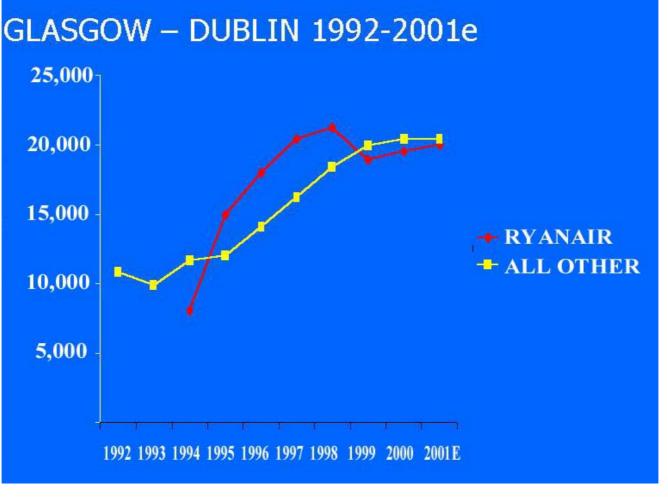
# **Low Cost Impact**





Source: Ryanair

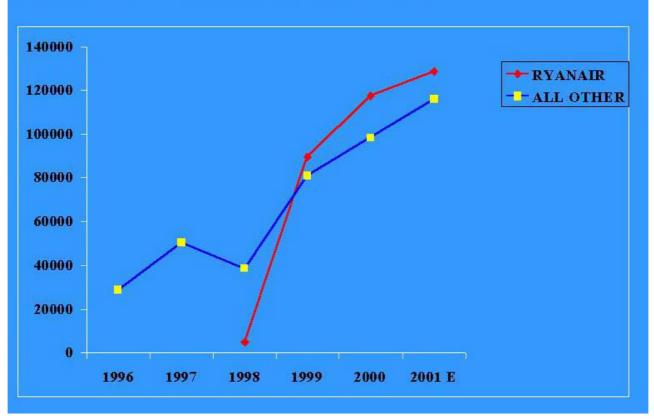
## **Low Cost Impact**





## **Low Cost Impact**

#### GLASGOW- PARIS 1998-2001E

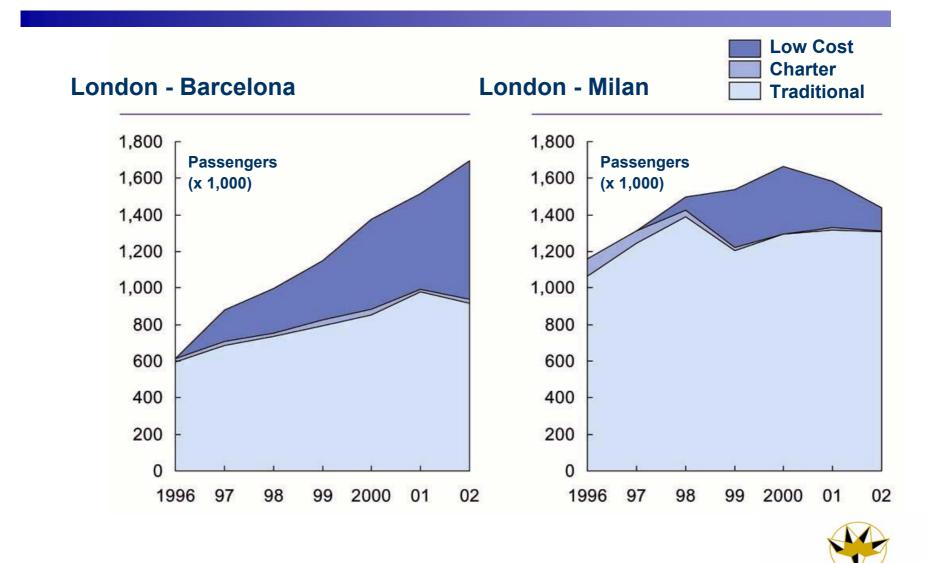




#### Source: Ryanair

14

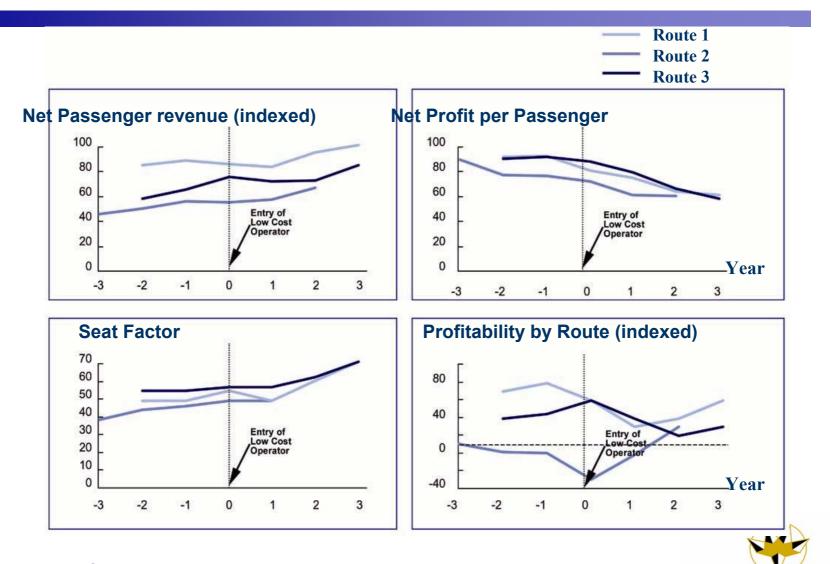
### Market Entry of Low Cost Operators Can mean growth for all carriers



MORRISON&CO

Source: McKinsey Presentation, Frankfurt Aviation Conf., 8.7.03 Civil Aviation Authority UK

### No impact on profitability of established carriers in the medium term (despite initial drop)



MORRISON & CO

Source: McKinsey Qtrly, 2002 No.4, McKinsey Presentation, Frankfurt Aviation Conf., 8.7.03

### Network Carrier Response -create more value

#### <u>Costs</u>

- **Ioad density** one class/seating density/galleys/toilets/load factor, etc
- **in-flight** no or reduced services -food/entertainment, more aggressive selling
- **airport/handling** secondary a/ps, reduced scope
- **marketing/distribution** direct sell (internet), scaled back loyalty progr
- **aircraft productivity** faster turns, shorter sectors, longer hrs
- **Crew productivity** single a/c type, reduced manning, flexibility/hrs

#### **Revenue**

- **targeted discounting** int. shorthaul/trunk, advanced sales, yield mgt
- **use of network strength** connectivity, flexibility, brand loyalty



### **Connectivity - still important - particularly to NZ inbound tourism**

#### STAR (24.8% Int. RPKs)

- Air Canada
- Air New Zealand
- All Nippon
- Austrian
- British Midlands
- Lauda
- Lufthansa
- Mexicana
- Scandinavian Airline System
- Singapore
- Thai
- Tyrolean
- United Airlines
- Varig

18

### ONEWORLD (18.6% RPKs)

- Aer Lingus
- American
- British Airways
- Cathay Pacific
- Finnair
- Iberia
- Lanchile
- Qantas



# Conclusions

### The world has changed (again)

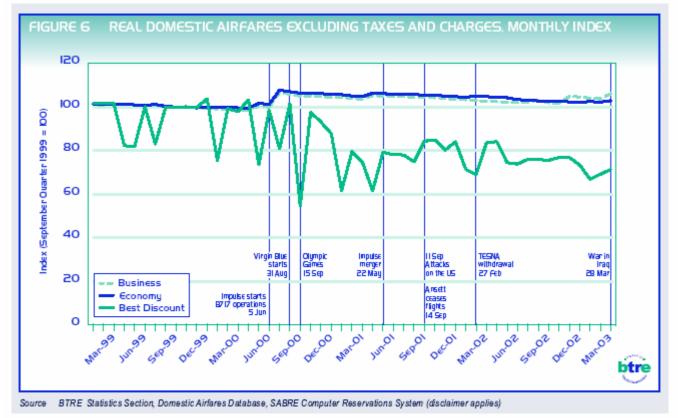
### Air NZ is positioned better than most to prosper

- well to well down the path of creating more value
  - $\Rightarrow$  Freedom
  - $\Rightarrow$  Domestic Express
  - $\Rightarrow$  Tasman Express
- also has strong continuing network/connectivity capabilities
- VBA entry will grow total market and create opportunities for Air NZ products
- Virgin Blue will be a manageable competitor
- For NZ public-max benefit from continuing competition and innovation it brings





# **Australian Market Developments**



1992 to 2002 Australian domestic:

- discount fares down 18%
- fully flexible full economy fares up 9%
- business fares up 34.5%

21



## **New Zealand Airfares**

