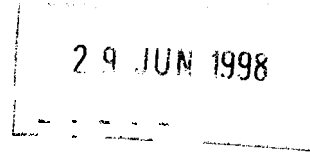


*Where New Zealand Touches the World*

25 June, 1998



Ms Vimla Rani  
Price Control Study of Airfield Activities  
Commerce Commission  
PO Box 2351  
WELLINGTON

Dear Ms Rani

**PRICE CONTROL STUDY OF AIRFIELD ACTIVITIES**

We refer to the Commission's letters of 4 June and 17 June 1998.

We have been asked to comment on:

- (a) The Commerce Commission's proposed approach to its price control study;
- (b) any preliminary issues arising out of the Minister's requirements, which may need to be addressed prior to the Commerce Commission commencing its price control study; and
- (c) the use of electronic communications to facilitate the price control study.

We respond as follows:

**1. Proposed approach**

Auckland International Airport Limited ("AIAL") will support the proposed approach to the study, as outlined on page 3 of the Commission's document entitled "Price Control of Airfield Activities - Process and Preliminary Issues", which we note closely follows the process used by the Commission in respect of authorisations (Part V of the Commerce Act 1986).

## 2. **Proposed timetable**

We note that formal submissions are to be lodged by 31 August 1999. This will allow us a satisfactory period within which to appreciate the nature of the study, and assess and develop our submissions.

We would not support any changes to the timetable that would have the effect of reducing the time within which we have to prepare.

One suggestion we would make is that the date of 1 October 1999 (being the date by which submissions are due on the draft report) be extended to 10 October 1999, allowing a slightly longer period for us to comment on the draft report. Consequential changes will, therefore, need to be made to the remaining dates. A minor change of this nature will not preclude the Commission meeting the deadline of 14 December 1999, by which to have completed its report.

## 3. **Proposed scope**

AIAL will support the proposed scope of the study as outlined by the Minister of Commerce in his letter of 26 May 1998, addressed to the Commission, insofar as it is expressed to relate to charges in respect of "airfield activities", as that term is defined in the Airport Authorities Amendment Act 1997.

## 4. **Electronic communications**

We will proceed on the basis that all correspondence and submissions are sent in electronic format.

As you will appreciate, this is a particularly busy time for AIAL, given other commitments related due to the sale by the Government of its shares in AIAL. Given the relatively short timeframe within which this response has been prepared, we would appreciate the opportunity to raise other matters, should they arise, prior to 31 July 1998.

Yours faithfully



Karen Paterson :  
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