

**Proposed Altered Timetable**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Commission considers it necessary to delay the commencement of the formal consultation phase by 2-3 months, given that a decision on the scope of the inquiry is yet to be made by the Minister and anticipated changes to Parts IV and V of the Commerce Act 1986 (the Act) are yet to be introduced into Parliament. The delay is needed for the Commission to properly conduct its inquiry, to ensure that interested parties have reasonable opportunity “to furnish their views on the matter to the Commission” (section 54(2)), and for it to fully consider “the interests of users, consumers, or, as the case may be, of suppliers” (section 53(2)(b)). Specifically:

- Although the Minister made his request under the existing provisions of the Act, the Commission needs to consider any amended provisions that may apply in making its recommendations to the Minister, on the grounds that Minister is likely to be considering, and making decisions based on, the Commission’s report under amended provisions of the Act. In this regard, interested parties need to be able to take account of anticipated changes to the Act in making their submissions to the Commission. However, with changes to Parts IV and V of the Act now not expected to be introduced until 15 February 2001, interested parties would be unable to consider the implications of the changes in making their initial submissions on 2 February. This necessitates a change in the date for initial submissions.
- A decision by the Minister in respect of scope has been delayed, but will hopefully be made before Christmas. However, because of the delay in the Minister’s decision, the Commission considers that interested parties will not have reasonable opportunity to consider any decision by the Minister on scope when making their initial submissions on 2 February. This further necessitates a change in the date for initial submissions.
- In addition, parts of the Commission’s revised and updated Critical Issues Paper remain uncertain, depending on a decision on scope by the Minister and changes to Parts IV and V of the Act being introduced into Parliament. In order for the paper to be complete, the Commission needs to hold off releasing its revised and updated Critical Issues Paper until March 2001 when these events should have occurred.

## ALTERED TIMETABLE

The flow on effect of changing the timing of the release of the Commission's revised and updated Critical Issues Paper and the date for initial submissions is that the rest of the timetable needs to move slightly. In this regard, the Commission has formulated the following altered timetable:

Stage	Current Timetable	Altered Timetable
Revised/Updated Critical Issues Paper	Early December 2000	16 March 2001
Initial Submissions	2 February 2001	27 April 2001
Draft Report	16 March 2001	8 June 2001
Submissions on Draft Report and Experts' Reports	27 April 2001	20 July 2001
Cross Submissions	18 May 2001	17 August 2001
Conference	5-8 and 11-14 June 2001	11-14 and 17-20 September 2001
Completion of the Commission's Report	1 August 2001	2 November 2001
Commission Reports to Minister	No later than 1 August 2002	

## COMMENT SOUGHT

The Commission invites interested parties to provide comment on the proposed altered timetable. Any comments should reach the Commission **by 5pm Wednesday 20 December 2000**.

The Commission will consider comments received from interested parties before finalising changes to the timetable for the inquiry. It expects to announce changes to the timetable before Christmas.

Comments should be sent to:

**Price Control Study of Airfield Activities**

**Commerce Commission**

**P O Box 2351**

**Wellington**

Or by fax to **(04) 4710771**

Or by E-mail to **airports@comcom.govt.nz**

Commerce Commission

14 December 2000