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[Virgin Australia welcomes ACCC decision on alliance with Etihad Airways](#) [2]

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Virgin Australia Holdings Limited (Virgin Australia) today welcomed the ACCC's determination approving the reauthorisation of its alliance with Etihad Airways (Etihad) until 30 December 2020.

Virgin Australia CEO John Borghetti said: "Together with our alliance partner Etihad Airways, we look forward to continuing to bring choice and competition for Australians travelling between Australia, the Middle East and beyond to Europe.

"Since the launch of the alliance five years ago, we have introduced more codeshare destinations, delivered further enhancements to the customer experience and more than doubled seat capacity between Australia and Abu Dhabi.

"We welcome the ACCC's assessment of the public benefit the alliance brings to Australian travellers", Mr Borghetti said.

The Alliance has delivered significant public benefit for Australian travellers including:

- More frequencies, greater capacity and new services including a 30 per cent increase in seats between Sydney and Abu Dhabi through use of larger aircraft on the route such as the Airbus A380, the introduction of a second daily Melbourne-Abu Dhabi service, the launch of a daily non-stop service

between Brisbane and Abu Dhabi using Boeing 787-9 aircraft and the launch of a daily non-stop service between Perth and Abu Dhabi using Airbus A330 aircraft.

- More destinations across the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Australasia through a codeshare network of 89 destinations, including 39 international destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan and 50 destinations in Australia
- Greater loyalty program benefits through reciprocal earn and burn, status recognition and international and domestic airport lounge access.

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