

File Number: OPAANZ-C

27 July 2006

Phil Taylor
Bell Gully
Auckland

Dear Mr Taylor

Air New Zealand/Qantas – Application for Authorisation under section 88 of the Civil Aviation Act

I refer to your letter of 18 July sent by email (your ref. 02-309-3304) in which you seek an extension of time until 4 August to respond to my letter of 16 June 2006.

We regret that it did take longer than we had hoped to reply to your Official Information Act request because of the time it took for us to complete the necessary consultations.

I must stress that, while we are looking for a complete reply as soon as possible that covers all the points raised in my letter of 16 June, we were particularly seeking a reply to the process points.

Given the passage of time and our advice to third parties, we now intend to post third-party views on the Ministry of Transport's web site starting at the end of this week (paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of my letter of 16 June refer). The initial tranche being posted was contained in the set of information that was the subject of the Official Information Act release to you. In that regard, you will have further opportunities to comment on the third-party views that are being released to you, including in the context of commenting on the draft advice we are preparing for the Minister.

Our current timetable will have us providing you with an additional set of detailed questions this week and additional third-party views, which are due by the end of this month, next week. At this stage to expedite matters we do not intend to wait until after we have reviewed all the third-party views before sending these questions. That review therefore may lead to an additional set of questions.

While there is no timeline set by statute, our current planning would have us providing you with the draft report to the Hon Pete Hodgson in early September, for your comment.

Obviously, however, progress in part will be dependent on the when you can reply to our requests for further information. Accounting for the time that ministerial decision-making processes take, our current aim is to have a decision made by mid-November. This could be delayed, particularly if it is decided that a further opportunity for third parties to comment is necessary for the process to be robust.

Yours sincerely

[Signed: J Bradbury]

John Bradbury
Deputy Secretary