

Minister of Transport  
Parliament House  
Molesworth St  
Wellington

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MINISTER'S OFFICE

May 5, 2006

Dear q(2)(a)

**Suggestion for Air New Zealand-Qantas code share proposal**

As a frequent Trans Tasman flier (Gold Elite with Air NZ for several years), I have read the various suggestions and concerns with interest.

I have one request. If the code share agreement goes ahead, could Air NZ be required to allow Wellington travellers to fly free to Auckland or Christchurch to connect with an Air NZ flight to Brisbane or Melbourne if they wished to do so.

This is obviously a more tortuous route, but the option should be there, as it was previously when Air NZ stopped flying to Brisbane for a while a year or so ago.

As a business traveller, I regard comfort as a major issue, plus a good sleep on the late night flights. Business class capacity will be halved on shared flights and the Air NZ planes are more comfortable and much newer than the Qantas ones. Also planes are going to be much more crowded at peak times out of Wellington.

I would opt to go to Brisbane via Auckland on Air NZ, but would resent having to pay the domestic fare as well, to connect with the flight.

Also I suspect Qantas staff would give preference to Qantas frequent fliers over Air NZ ones.

I see this as a good-will gesture from Air NZ.

Regards

q(2)(a)