

24 February 2014

Richard Cross  
Senior Adviser  
Ministry of Transport

Dear Richard

**Re: Air New Zealand/Singapore Airlines application for authorisation of Strategic Alliance**

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC) in respect of the application for authorisation by Air New Zealand and Singapore Airlines of their proposed Strategic Alliance.

CDC is the economic development agency for Christchurch City Council; our primary role being to drive economic growth in the Canterbury region. In the aftermath of the earthquakes, we have been busy aiding local businesses and industry in their recovery. While this is still an important part of our role, increasingly we are able to focus on the long term picture: driving sustainable growth.

Continuation and expansion of international air services, like the one provided by Singapore Airlines through Christchurch Airport, is a central part of realising this long term picture. The Christchurch and Canterbury economies are of national significance and, by their nature, are dependent on effective international connectivity. Our producers rely on this connectivity to get their time-sensitive produce to overseas markets, and our tourism organisations rely on it to encourage international passengers to travel the distance.

Before authorising the airlines' application for authorisation, the Ministry of Transport needs to be comfortable that the alliance would not put at risk the continuation, and potential for future expansion, of Singapore Airlines' current services through Christchurch. It is our belief that there is a risk of a national net loss of GDP if services are diverted to Auckland rather than run from Christchurch.

As an aside, I would thank both airlines for their enduring commitment to the South Island, and in particular the Canterbury region to date.

Yours sincerely



Tom Hooper  
**Chief Executive**  
Canterbury Development Corporation