

11 February 2014

Richard Cross  
Senior Adviser  
Ministry of Transport  
Email: [r.cross@transport.govt.nz](mailto:r.cross@transport.govt.nz)

Dear Richard

**Air New Zealand/Singapore Airlines Application for Authorisation of Strategic Alliance**

The Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (CECC) represents approximately 2,550 South Island businesses, all with a vested interest in a secure and prosperous Canterbury economy. Our members operate in a broad range of industries that are of central importance to this economy, including tourism, exporting and importing.

On behalf of the CECC I wish to emphasise the crucial role that the Singapore Airlines long-haul service has played in advancing the economic interests of businesses in the Christchurch and broader Canterbury region, both before and after the Canterbury earthquakes.

Many of our members rely on the regular, direct international service that Singapore Airlines currently provides through Christchurch Airport, and have high hopes that this level of connectivity will only improve over time.

For example, Ngai Tahu Seafood is a large air freight exporter of live seafoods. The Singapore Airlines service provides just in time freight capacity for high value foods to Singapore and beyond via the Changi hub. Access to this hub is crucial in maintaining and growing export volumes and values for the Christchurch and South Island economies.

Singapore Airlines also plays a vital role in directly connecting inbound and outbound tourists with Christchurch and the South Island.

I urge the Ministry of Transport to have the above considerations front of mind when considering the airlines' application for authorisation, including being alert to any risks that the alliance might jeopardise the current levels of service provided by Singapore Airlines directly into Christchurch.

Singapore Airlines has made a valued 28 year commitment to Christchurch city. We want to see that continue as part of the airlines quest to make the South Island a top destination for world travellers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed alliance. Do feel free to contact me in relation to any aspect of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Townsend'.

**Peter Townsend**  
Chief Executive

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