



Keith Mason
28/04/2006 05:37 pm

To: Anya Zohrab/minserv
cc:
Fax to:
Subject: Wellington - Melbourne "code sharing"

Keith Mason
Senior Private Secretary to the Hon Pete Hodgson, MP
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9(2)(a)

To: pete.hodgson@parliament.govt.nz
cc: kerry.prendergast@wcc.govt.nz
Subject: Wellington - Melbourne "code sharing"

Dear Minister Hodgson,

My company, [redacted] has recently [redacted]

9(2)(b)(ii)

As we establish ourselves as creative-sector exporters, our price is a major issue. We are needing to be extremely vigilant to ensure that our project costs are minimised where-ever possible.

One of the major factors allowing us to do work in Australia while remaining based in Wellington is the availability of relatively cheap and (critically) direct and regular flights to and from Melbourne. This allows us to pop across repeatedly through the project, and thereby maintain our creative facilities [redacted] HERE.

In preparing the current project I have actively compared fares from Qantas and Air New Zealand, and found Air New Zealand prices MUCH cheaper... less than half the price on the flights I have so far booked.

I want to express my STRONG concern that a reduction in competition on the direct Wellington-Melbourne route will harm my business, and push us towards either having to abandon our currently-viable export market there, or having to try to

establish a separate, Australian-tax-paying business to service it.

Pete, I am about the furthest thing from a Chamber of Commerce flunkie. I want to assure you that my concerns expressed here are very practical and personal, and entirely spontaneous.

My small business is already struggling to overcome the disadvantages created for us by monopoly utility suppliers such as Telecom... PLEASE don't allow competition to be reduced in this critical trans-Tasman service.

9(2)(a)