



# INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND COMPETITION COMMISSION

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### INQUIRY INTO CERTAIN BUSINESS IMPEDIMENTS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 124 OF THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER & COMPETITION COMMISSION ACT 2002 ("THE ACT")

#### REVIEW OF THE AIRLINES AND COASTAL SHIPPING INDUSTRIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA ("REVIEWS")

The Government as part of its 2006 Budget Strategy has announced the review of certain industries in Papua New Guinea ("PNG") with a view to considering competition issues and the role and place of regulation within these industries. Accordingly, the Airlines and Coastal Shipping Industries in PNG have been identified for a comprehensive Review to be undertaken by the Independent Consumer and Competition Commission ("**Commission**").

The provisions of Part VIII of the Act empowers the Commission to conduct specific enquiries necessary and desirable for the purposes of the Commission in carrying out its functions or as directed by the Minister responsible for Treasury matters or by Parliament. On the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006, the Minister for Finance & Treasury ("**Minister**") formally referred these Reviews together with the official terms of references to the Commission in accordance with section 123 of the Act.

#### **Purpose of the Inquiries**

The Reviews are intended to look at a wide range of issues relating to regulation, structure, and the efficient operation of the two industries with a particular focus upon ways of increasing competition and reducing charges and user costs while improving the overall level of service.

The principle objectives of the Reviews are to:

- Report on the current impediments, both regulatory and non-regulatory, to improve operating efficiency and competitiveness in these industries in PNG;
- Identify issues and areas where Government action may be appropriate to improve the overall cost competitiveness and efficiency of these industries; and
- Make recommendations on what action by the Government may be appropriate to rectify any problems in the current regulation and operation of these industries with a view to improving competitiveness and reducing costs of all forms.

#### "Friend to Businesses, Friend to Consumers"

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