

DATE: 24 April 2020

### **Airlines call out outrageous tactics by Perth Airport**

Airlines reeling from the economic impacts of COVID-19 crisis have today reacted with disbelief [at images of bulldozers on the tarmac at Perth Airport, brought in to prevent the departure of some of Virgin Australia's planes.](#)

Commenting on the airport's statement that this action was necessary "to protect its own interests", Airlines for Australia & New Zealand (A4ANZ) Chairman, Professor Graeme Samuel AC, said the behaviour by the airport was particularly galling in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

"The aviation industry in Australia, and the economy more broadly, is currently facing its biggest challenge in over a century. Perth Airport has made it clear today that they are not willing to be part of Team Australia to navigate through this crisis."

A4ANZ CEO, Dr Alison Roberts said, "The Australian Government has stated unambiguously its expectation that commercial arrangements during this crisis should apply principles of proportionality. That is, if a business is seeking relief from a supplier, the response from the supplier must reflect and be proportionate to the loss in revenue of that business."

"By bringing in bulldozers to block planes, Perth Airport has made it abundantly clear that it does not intend to adhere to these principles, despite claiming it is working cooperatively with airlines."

Prof Samuel said, "As the chairman of Perth Airport, Nev Power must surely be seeing this aggressive monopoly behaviour in a different light, from his new role as head of the Government's National COVID-19 Coordination Commission. Not content with taking Qantas to the Supreme Court, Perth Airport's latest show of aggression towards a long-standing airline customer has made it clear that they are not willing to work through this crisis as a member of Team Australia. We only hope that Nev Power will see fit to intervene so that common sense – and genuine cooperation – can prevail."

"Australia's airports benefit when airlines are thriving. What other sort of business could afford to treat a customer this way, especially in the current economic climate?"

**Media Enquiries: Graeme Samuel 0408 335 555**

Website: [www.a4anz.com](http://www.a4anz.com)

Twitter: @a4anz