



Gary Morgan
2004 Lord Mayor Candidate

Margaret Wood
2204 Deputy Lord Mayor Candidate



Friday, January 21, 2005

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE AGE NEWSPAPER

Dear Editor,

The Australian Government needs to open up the Melbourne to LA route to more airlines to increase visitors and tourists from the US

A recent Roy Morgan survey conducted in the US shows that Australia is the most popular country that Americans would like to visit (33% named Australia as a preferred destination). Of Americans who have travelled overseas for a holiday in the last 12 months, 5.7 million would like to come to Australia. However 20% of Americans believe travelling to Australia is too expensive. Unfortunately it is significantly cheaper for Americans to travel to Europe, or in fact most other places in the world, than to Australia (see ["Doing Business Globally – Marketing 'Brand Melbourne'"](#)).

Prime Minister John Howard should be brought to task if the following quote from Mr Chew, chief executive of Singapore Airline, in The Age on Friday January 21 is correct, that "we (Singapore Airlines) were also asked to take a raincheck (by the Howard Government) until the elections were over. Lately we were told it would take 12 to 18 months (to fly the trans-Pacific route), so we're hoping to have a manifestation of that soon."

Unfortunately the Victorian Bracks Government is inept in tackling the Federal Government over restricting the number of international airlines that can fly from Melbourne to the US.

Qantas was privatised on the pretence that there would be more competition. Today there is no serious competition on the Pacific route to the US so Melbournians are disadvantaged with only one direct Qantas flight a day from Melbourne to LA. I am sure Singapore Airlines would trade more Singapore to Paris flights (now three a week) for Qantas if they were allowed to fly daily from Melbourne to LA.

The Howard Government's Aviation Policy is naïve to not understand that more competitive airfares across the Pacific would significantly increase the number of Americans visiting Melbourne.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Morgan

Gary Morgan Lord Mayor Candidate	Margaret Wood Deputy Lord Mayor Candidate	Peter Clarke Councillor Candidate	Emily Tang Councillor Candidate
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Trading Room

Chew presses Qantas over Sydney-LA route

By **SCOTT ROCHFORT**

SINGAPORE Airlines chief executive Chew Choon Seng has launched his most vocal attack so far on Qantas' stranglehold on the Sydney to Los Angeles route.

With Transport Minister John Anderson due to reopen the long-stalled Open Skies talks with the Singapore Government in mid-February, Mr Chew used his keynote speech at the launch of the Airbus A380 super-jumbo to extol the virtues of operating the A380 on a route Singapore cannot fly, Sydney to Los Angeles.

To further drive home his point, Mr Chew called two press conferences. One dealt with Singapore Airlines' taking delivery of the first A380 early next year; the other was on the airline's desire to fly from the Australian east coast to the US.

"When we put in our bid for access to trans-Pacific operations beyond Australia, we were asked to be patient and to await the return of stability to the industry post-9/11, post-Bali and so on.



Geoff Dixon

"Subsequent to that, we were also asked to take a raincheck (by the Howard Government) until the elections were over.

Lately we were told it would take 12 to 18 months, so we're hoping to have a manifestation of that soon," Mr Chew said.

Asked why he had decided to call a press conference on the issue, he said: "Sometimes the message doesn't get through; so we thought we'd repeat it one more time."

Qantas chief executive Geoff Dixon, who happened to be sitting next to Mr Chew at the A380 briefing, said granting Singapore Airlines rights to fly to the US would be unfair because Qantas was restricted to where it could fly to out of Singapore. He mentioned of Paris, where Qantas was restricted to three weekly services, compared with Singapore's twice-daily services.

Singapore Airlines hit for 'double standards'

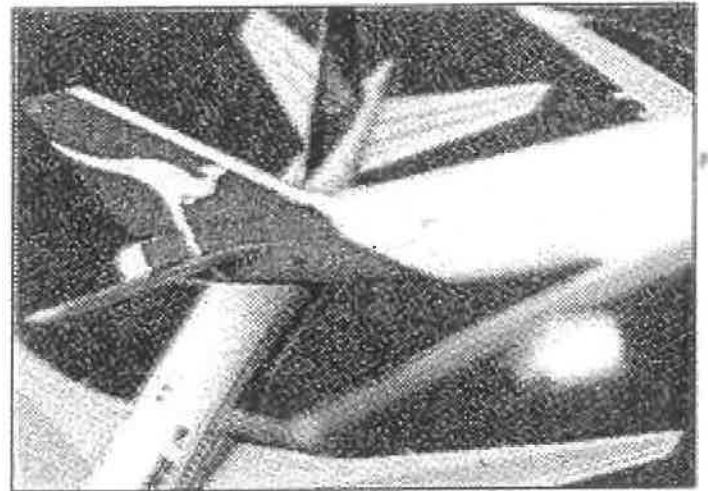
By **SCOTT ROCHFORT**
SYDNEY

THE head of Asia's largest low-cost airline has accused Singapore Airlines of double standards in its long-fought campaign to gain access to Qantas' lucrative Sydney-Los Angeles route.

Singapore Airlines claims it does not enjoy the same rights to fly on certain routes out of Australia as Qantas has to fly out of Singapore — but AirAsia chief executive Tony Fernandes said Singapore had hindered his airline's access into the island state.

"I support (Qantas chief executive) Geoff Dixon 250 per cent," he said. "Singapore would give them what Singapore wants to give them."

With AirAsia's 49 per cent Indonesian subsidiary AWAIR being forced to refund thousands of airline tickets in the past week after failing to gain its air oper-



Singapore Airlines claims it does not have the same rights as Qantas.

ator's certificate to fly into Singapore, Mr Fernandes questioned Singapore Airlines' claims of being anti-protectionist.

"On one side they criticise the Australian Government for not allowing them (access on the Australia-US route), but twice we have been slammed," he said.

AWAIR is considering legal action against the Singapore Government over not being granted access into Singapore in time for its first scheduled flight.