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Our ref: A1000421
Contact officer: Tanya Hobbs, Robert Janissen
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19/07/2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Gippsland dairy farmers' application for authorisation AA1000421 - draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by the Gippsland dairy farmers on 10 May 2018.

Please see pages 20-24 of the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for Authorisation of conduct \(non-merger\)](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

The Gippsland dairy farmers are seeking authorisation for collective bargaining with raw milk purchasers.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 10 years.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **10 August 2018**. "Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000421 – Gippsland dairy farmers – submission".

A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **10 August 2018**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
10 May 2018	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
14 May 2018	Public consultation process begins.
24 May 2018	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
19 July 2018	Draft determination.
July/August 2018	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
September 2018	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Adjudication