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24/10/2018

www.accc.gov.au

Mr Andrew Kerr
Partner
Preston Law

Dear Mr Kerr

Central Highlands Regional Council and Isaac Regional Council application for authorisation AA1000430—request for interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the above mentioned application for authorisation lodged on 28 September 2018. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached.

Interim authorisation commences immediately and is granted to enable the participating councils to begin preparations for the proposed joint procurement process for waste collection services, including preparing and advertising tender documentation, evaluating responses, and negotiating and communicating with prospective bidders. Interim authorisation does not extend to entering into, or giving effect to, any waste collection contracts.

Next steps

The next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any submissions from the participating councils and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC has invited submissions regarding the application for authorisation by 31 October 2018. The ACCC will give both the applicants and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission on the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

The ACCC will progress its assessment in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information:

28 September 2018	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
16 October 2018	Public consultation process begins.
24 October 2018	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
31 October 2018	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
November 2018	Applicants respond to issues raised in the public consultation process.
November 2018	Draft determination. Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.

**December 2018 or
January/February 2019**

Final determination.

As noted in the attached decision, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. In this regard, the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of issuing its draft determination. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

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 Sophie Mitchell on (03) 9290 1822 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Drake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "D".

Michael Drake
Director
Adjudication