



Our ref: AA1000430
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Dear Sir/Madam

www.acc.gov.au

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

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Central Highlands Regional Council and Isaac Regional Council (the **Applicants**) on 28 September 2018. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached.

Interim authorisation commences immediately and is granted to enable the Applicants to begin preparations for a collective tender 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.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

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 Applicants 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.

Further information in relation to the application for authorisation, including any public submissions received and an indicative timetable for the ACCC's assessment of the application, may be obtained from the ACCC's [Public Register](#).

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

Michael Drake
Director
Adjudication