

From: [Wilson, Louisa](#)
Subject: Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group - withdrawal of interim authorisation application [SEC=OFFICIAL] [ACCC-ACCCANDAER.FID1988231]
Date: Monday, 10 February 2020 3:26:14 PM
Attachments: [AA1000461 - Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group - Letter from Applicant requesting withdrawal of interim authorisation application - 07.02.20 - PR.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

I refer to Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group's (**AESAG**) application for authorisation and interim authorisation, lodged with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) on 29 November 2019.

AESAG withdraws request for interim authorisation

Please see **attached** letter from AESAG to the ACCC advising that AESAG has withdrawn its request for interim authorisation.

Please note that AESAG is still seeking authorisation for the proposed conduct. The ACCC will now consider all the information provided by AESAG and in submissions from interested parties in making a draft determination on this application.

Updated timetable

The ACCC is anticipating releasing a draft determination in March. An updated timetable is provided below:

29 November 2019	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
5 December 2019	Public consultation process begins.
22 January 2020	Closing date for submissions from interested parties on interim authorisation and the substantive application.
7 February 2020	Applicant withdraws request for interim authorisation
February 2020	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
March 2020	ACCC draft determination.
March / April 2020	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
May / June 2020	Final determination.

Kind regards,

Louisa

Louisa Wilson

Analyst | Adjudication | Merger and Authorisation Review Division

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The ACCC acknowledges the traditional custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and future.

7 February 2020

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Daniel McCracken-Hewson
Acting General Manager, Adjudication
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Dear Mr McCracken-Hewson

Application for Authorisation on behalf of members of the Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group (AESAG) (AA1000461-1): Withdrawal of interim application

We refer to the AESAG members' (**Members**) application for authorisation lodged on 29 November 2019 (**Application**), and in particular to the Members' application for interim authorisation from the ACCC (**Interim Application**).

The Members sought Interim Authorisation by February 2020 and have set out their reasons in the Application and letter to the ACCC dated 20 January 2020.

The Members acknowledge there have been a number of submissions made by third parties before the ACCC's draft decision.

The Members are preparing a supplementary submission seeking to address the key issues raised by interested third parties. They appreciate that this may require further consultation by the ACCC with interested third parties.

In the circumstances, the Members consider that it would be appropriate to provide the ACCC with additional time to consider the issues raised within those submissions, as well as the Members' responses, as part of its consideration of the overall application.

Accordingly, the Members seek to withdraw the application for Interim Authorisation.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Members continue to seek authorisation from the ACCC for their substantive Application.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Ayman Guirguis

Partner