

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 January 2020 4:51 PM  
**To:** Adjudication  
**Subject:** Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group's (AESAG) application for authorisation AA1000461

**Categories:**

23 January 2020

Ms Danielle Staltari  
Director  
Adjudication  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
By Email: [adjudication@accc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@accc.gov.au)

Dear Ms Staltari

Further to our correspondence regarding the application made by Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group ("AESAG") to adopt industry accreditation (your ref: AA1000461), Slater and Gordon appreciate the extension to February 6 to make a full and formal submission on this application.

We understand that prior to receiving our full submission the ACCC is seeking a view from Slater and Gordon on the potential for the ACCC to grant interim authorisation to AESAG ahead of a final determination (which is currently scheduled for May/June 2020).

While Slater and Gordon recognise the urgent need for further action to address increasing community concerns about the increasing number of diagnoses of silicosis and other silica-related diseases among fabricators and stonemasons working with engineered stone, these matters are of such consequence in terms of health and safety that any change to standards and practices must be done in a way that maintains the confidence of stakeholders that the proposed change will lead to improvements in safety.

Slater and Gordon do not believe this is possible without a thorough consideration of the issues such as could be achieved through the full consultation process (as outlined on the ACCC website: <https://www.accc.gov.au/public-registers/authorisations-and-notifications-registers/authorisations-register/australian-engineered-stone-advisory-group-aesag>). Accordingly we would not be in favour of the ACCC granting interim authorisation.

Yours sincerely,

**Phil Reed**

Head of Government and Stakeholder Relations



**Slater  
Gordon**  
Lawyers

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