

17 December 2019

Email: adjudication@accc.gov.au

**Response to the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
in relation to: Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group - AA1000461**

To whom it may concern

Talostone® is a leading manufacturer and supplier of high-quality engineered stone products to the Australian market. The business has been operating since 2013 and has pioneered many innovations during that time including jumbo-sized slabs, imitation marble colours and the first available 12mm slab.

The company prides itself on the contributions it has made to the industry over the past six years and has viewed safety as a top priority at all times. In order to ensure the company delivers on this commitment, Talostone has worked closely with all key stakeholders to ensure fabricators comply with the all necessary safety procedures.

As such, Talostone supports the initiative of the Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group (AESAG) to introduce an accreditation program for fabricators cutting stone as we firmly believe this will make an enhanced contribution to reducing the risk of silicosis in the workplace.

We do not see any public detriment in the ACCC authorising the actions requested by AESAG in the submission we received and reviewed.

Responsible manufacturers should support this initiative because it will reinforce the actions we take to encourage fabricators to comply with all safety regulations.

Manufacturers who do not support the initiative have no place in this industry and should rightly be refused product supply.

As has been referenced by AESAG, there is no risk to the public from engineered stone as supplied and once safely installed and we believe the public would support all actions undertaken to protect the ongoing health and well-being of all in the industry.

In line with this, Talostone supports the ACCC granting the interim authorisation sought by AESAG. In addition to the AESAG accreditation program, Talostone wishes to make a recommendation that we believe would further enhance the safety of fabricators.

If this were mandated across the industry we believe it would provide another level of protection and safety for fabricators.

Yours sincerely

Allan Zhang
Managing Director