



Our ref: AA1000645
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Dear Interested party

Australian Banking Association Ltd – application for authorisation AA1000645 – interested party consultation

On 10 July 2023, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) received an application for authorisation by the Australian Banking Association Ltd (**ABA**) (**the Applicant**) on behalf of its ABA member banks, their subsidiary banks and future ABA members (**Member Banks**). This letter is to invite you to comment on this application. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

The Applicant is seeking authorisation¹ under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth)*. Authorisation would give the Applicant's Member Banks legal protection from competition laws to participate in discussions for the purpose of developing potential industry initiatives to prevent, detect, disrupt and respond to scams affecting individual and small business customers and to develop and in principle agree to the content of a standard reflecting these initiatives. This application for authorisation relates to development of the initiatives and a draft industry standard only. The ABA has indicated that it would seek a further authorisation at the appropriate time in relation to implementation of the industry standard.

Authorisation is sought for 12 months.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the [ACCC's authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

The Applicant has also requested urgent interim authorisation to enable the Member Banks to engage in the proposed conduct while the substantive application for authorisation is being assessed by the ACCC.

Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **4 August 2023**. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into account. Submissions in relation to interim

¹ For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

authorisation should be provided by **25 July 2023**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Elizabeth Batten via the details at the end of this letter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register on the internet](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register (see [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests](#)).

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
10 July 2023	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
19 July 2023	Public consultation process begins.
25 July 2023	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
Early August 2023	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
4 August 2023	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
August 2023	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
September 2023	Draft determination.
October 2023	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
November 2023	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Batten on 02 6243 1359 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tony Hilton
Director
Competition Exemptions