



Our ref: AA1000564
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2/08/2021

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Dear Sir/Madam

Mereenie gas joint marketing application for authorisation – interested party consultation

On 29 July 2021, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from Central Petroleum Limited and Central Petroleum Mereenie Pty Ltd (as trustee for the Central Petroleum Unit Trust) and Macquarie Mereenie Pty Ltd (the **Applicants**) to jointly market the natural gas produced out of the Mereenie gas field. This letter is to invite you to comment on that application. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

The Applicants seek authorisation under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) to:

- i. engage in the joint marketing of natural gas produced from the Mereenie Gas field, which they own in 50/50 shares in a joint venture; and
 - ii. give effect to any contracts with customers that may arise out of the joint marketing of Mereenie gas. These contracts may involve common terms and conditions, including in relation to price
- (together, the **Proposed Conduct**).¹

The Applicants submit that the Proposed Conduct will result in a number of public benefits with little to no public detriments.

Authorisation to jointly market the natural gas produced out of the Mereenie gas field was previously granted by the ACCC on 29 March 2018 for a period of three years (in relation to joint marketing) and ten years (in relation to giving effect to contracts). The Applicants now seek authorisation for a term of five years (for joint marketing) and ten years (for giving effect to contractual terms and conditions). A full copy of the original authorisation (AA1000398) and this application for authorisation are available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

The Applicants further seek interim authorisation to allow them to engage in the Proposed Conduct prior to the ACCC's final determination.

Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation and interim authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views

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

about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

Further, the ACCC invites you to tell us about your experience of the Proposed Conduct during the term of the previous authorisation. The ACCC is particularly interested in the public benefits and detriments you have observed as a result of the conduct to date.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to this application, please do so by **30 August 2021**. 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 authorisation should be provided by **16 August 2021**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

Please use the coversheet that accompanied this letter and email your submission to exemptions@acc.gov.au, with the subject 'AA1000564 – Central and Macquarie Merreenie – submission'. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Robert Janissen 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
29 July 2021	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
2 August 2021	Public consultation process begins.
16 August 2021	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
30 August 2021	Closing date for submissions on substantive authorisation.
August/September 2021	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
August 2021	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
September/October 2021	Draft determination.
September – October 2021	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
October – November 2021	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 Robert Janissen on 02 6243 1387 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Hatfield", is placed over a light yellow rectangular background.

David Hatfield
Director
Competition Exemptions

Interested Party List

Northern Territory Government

Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Australian Energy Market Commission

Australian Energy Market Operator

Energy Networks Australia

Australian Energy Counsel

Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association

Jemena

APA Group

Power and Water Corporation

Glencore Australia Pty Ltd

Incitec Pivot Limited

South 32

Wesfarmers

AGL Energy

ERM Power

Australian Gas Infrastructure Group

Santos

Australian Gas Networks

Alinta Energy

Woodside

Origin Energy

Ausnet

Arrow Energy