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Dear Interested Party

## **Business Renewables Buying Group – Application for authorisation AA1000634 – Interested party consultation**

On 31 January 2023, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from 1Circle Pty Ltd on behalf of current and future organisations that will form the Business Renewables Buying Group (the **Group**). This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

The Group is seeking authorisation<sup>1</sup> under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) on behalf of themselves. 1Circle lodged the application for authorisation on behalf of the Group in its capacity as the Facilitator of the Group.

Authorisation would give the Group legal protection from competition laws and allow them to establish a joint renewable energy buying group in which the Applicants aggregate their electricity demand and undertake a joint procurement process for an electricity supply arrangement and an equivalent quantity of large-scale generation certificates from a specific renewable energy project or projects connected to the National Electricity Market. The Group intends to conduct a tender process and negotiate collectively to appoint an electricity retailer to supply electricity to the Group. It is intended that each member will sign a separate electricity supply agreement with the chosen retailer as part of the Group.

The Group is seeking authorisation for 11 years. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

### **Interim authorisation**

The Group also seeks interim authorisation to enable the electricity procurement process to be initiated, noting that some members of the Group have existing contracts that are approaching expiry.

### **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 in relation to the **interim authorisation and substantive application**, please do so by **Tuesday, 14 February 2023**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

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

If you do however 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 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 Penny Bigham 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
<b>31 January 2023</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>3 February 2023</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>14 February 2023</b>	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
<b>February/March 2023</b>	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
<b>February/March 2023</b>	Draft determination.
<b>March 2023</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>March/April 2023</b>	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 Penny Bigham on (02) 3052 1221 or [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Tess Macrae  
Director  
Competition Exemptions