



Our ref: AA1000673
Contact officer: Hannah Craig
Contact phone: (03) 9977 1875

Land of the Ngunnawal people
23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel 02 6243 1111
exemptions@acc.gov.au
www.accc.gov.au

9 July 2024

Dear Interested Party

Re: Coles Group on behalf of itself and participating supermarkets application for revocation of authorisation AA1000627 and substitution of AA1000673 – interested party consultation

On 24 June 2024, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for revocation and substitution from Coles Group, on behalf of itself, Woolworths Group and ALDI Stores (together, the **Participants**). 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 Participants are seeking authorisation¹ under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). Authorisation would give them legal protection from competition laws to continue to engage in conduct in connection with the industry-led Soft Plastics Taskforce, which was established in 2022 following the collapse of REDcycle's soft plastics recycling program. The Participants are seeking authorisation until 31 July 2025. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

The Participants have also requested interim authorisation to allow them to continue to engage in the conduct prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for authorisation, because the current authorisation AA1000627 is due to expire on 22 July 2024.

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 **6 August 2024**. 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 **12 July 2024**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

¹ For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/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 Hannah Craig 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 |
|------------------------|--|
| 24 June 2024 | Lodgement of application and supporting submission. |
| 9 Jul 2024 | Public consultation process begins. |
| 12 July 2024 | Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation. |
| July 2024 | ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation. |
| 6 August 2024 | Closing date for submissions from interested parties. |
| August 2024 | Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process. |
| September 2024 | Draft determination. |
| October 2024 | Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called. |
| November 2024 | 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 Hannah Craig on (03) 9977 1875 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Naomi Menon
Director
Competition Exemptions