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7/07/2021

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By email

Dear Madam or Sir

Coles Group Limited — application for authorisation AA1000546 — draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Coles Group Limited on behalf of itself and participating supermarkets on 12 March 2021.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation until 31 March 2022.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the applicants or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

Making a submission

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **28 July 2021**. Submissions should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000546 – Coles Group Limited – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Sam O'Connor via the details at the end of this letter.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made at a pre-decision conference (should one be called - see below), and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Optional pre-decision conference

In some cases the applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to its draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the applicant and interested parties to attend and make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **21 July 2021** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
12 March 2021	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
25 March 2021	Interim Authorisation Decision
22 April 2021	Closing date for submissions on substantive application
5 May 2021	Coles responds to issues raised in public consultation process
7 July 2021	Draft determination
July 2021	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
August 2021	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact Sam O'Connor on (03) 9910 9522.

Yours sincerely



Jaime Martin
A/g Director
Competition Exemptions