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9/12/2021

[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

By email

Dear interested party

### **Regional Renewable Organics Network project - application for authorisation AA1000583 - draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Barwon Regional Water Corporation (**Barwon Water**), Borough of Queenscliff, City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway Shire, Golden Plains Shire, Surf Coast Shire and Wyndham City Council (the **Six Councils**) on 13 October 2021.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 20 years for the Six Councils to collectively bargain with Barwon Water about the terms of waste supply agreements covering the supply of waste processing services through a proposed Regional Renewable Organics Network.

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 Applicant 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 **14 January 2021**. Submissions should be emailed to [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au) with the subject "AA1000583 – Regional Renewable Organics Network – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Tanya Hobbs 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 **23 December 2021** by email to [exemptions@accc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@accc.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
13 October 2021	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
19 October 2021	Public consultation process begins.
11 November 2021	Interim Authorisation Decision
9 December 2021	Draft determination
December 2021/January 2022	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called. Submissions on the draft determination are due by 14 January 2022.
February 2022	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 Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones  
Director  
Competition Exemptions