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Dear Sir/Madam

### **Mereenie gas joint marketing application for authorisation AA1000564 - draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for re-authorisation lodged by Central Petroleum Limited, Central Petroleum Mereenie Pty Ltd (as trustee for the Central Petroleum Unit Trust) and Macquarie Mereenie Pty Ltd (the **Applicants**) on 29 July 2021.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to authorise participants in the Mereenie gas joint venture to:

- for a period of 5 years, jointly market gas from the Mereenie gas field in the NT,
- for a period of 5 years, make gas supply agreements (**GSAs**) with customers for the supply of Mereenie gas that contain common terms and conditions (including as to price) and that expire on or before 31 December 2031, and
- give effect to any such GSAs (entered into during the 5-year period) until 31 December 2031.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached and also available on the [ACCC's authorisation 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 **10 December 2021**. Submissions should be emailed to [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au) with the subject "AA10000564 – Macquarie Mereenie & Ors – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Alex Cicchini or Robert Janissen 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 Applicants or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination. If a conference is called it will be open to the Applicants 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. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the ACCC has been holding any conferences virtually.

If you wish for the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **10 December 2021**. Any request for a conference should be emailed to [exemptions@acc.gov.au](mailto:exemptions@acc.gov.au).

## Timetable

The ACCC will 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
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.
September/October 2021	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
7 October 2021	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
19 November 2021	Draft determination.
10 December 2021	Closing date for submissions in response to the draft determination and to request pre-decision conference
January 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 Alex Cicchini on (03) 9910 9552 or Robert Janissen on (02) 6243 1387.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hatfield".

David Hatfield

Director

Competition Exemptions