



Our ref: AA100538
Contact officer: Connie Wu
Contact phone: (08) 9325 0637

23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601
GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601
tel: (02) 6243 1111

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exemptions@acc.gov.au
www.acc.gov.au

By email

Dear Sir or Madam

Vali gas joint venture application for authorisation AA1000538 – ACCC draft determination

The ACCC has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation received from Vintage Energy Ltd, Metgasco Ltd and Bridgeport (Cooper Basin) Pty Ltd (collectively, the **Applicants**) on 10 December 2020.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to authorise the Applicants to jointly market natural gas from the ATP 2021 Vali field (**Vali field**) for five years and, within this period, to make/give effect to gas supply agreements with customers for the supply of gas from the Vali field that contain common terms and conditions (including price) and a maximum gas supply term of 15 years.

On 29 January 2021, the ACCC granted interim authorisation to allow the parties to begin jointly marketing and entering into conditional gas supply agreements with customers, and supplying minor quantities of gas from the Vali field to customers for a short period until 31 December 2021.

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

Next steps

The ACCC invites submissions on the draft determination.

Submissions are due by **12 April 2021** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject line "AA10000538 – Vali gas joint venture – submission". The ACCC will consider any submissions received by this date in making its final decision about whether to authorise the proposed joint marketing.

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, an Applicant or an interested party requests that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination. If a conference is called in this matter, 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.

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 12 April 2021. Any request for a conference should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

We usually prefer to hold a conference in a way that enables attendees to attend in person. In the current circumstances, with the risk of COVID-19 and the need to significantly limit social contact, a face-to-face conference may not be possible. There may be options for the ACCC to hold a conference via webinar or teleconference. If you are considering requesting the ACCC hold a conference please contact us as early as possible to discuss the options for holding a conference before requesting one.

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.

10 December 2020	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
16 December 2020	Public consultation process begins.
18 January 2021	Closing date for submissions on interim and substantive authorisation.
January 2021	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
February 2021	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
26 March 2021	Draft determination.
12 April 2021	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
April/May 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 Connie Wu on (08) 9325 0637 or by email at exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Competition Exemptions Branch