



Our ref: AA1000550
Contact officer: Michael Pappa
Contact phone: (03) 9658 6531

16/08/2021

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

Toowoomba Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council application for Authorisation AA1000542 — draft determination and interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Toowoomba Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council (the **Applicants**) on 2 April 2021.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 3 years.

The ACCC has also granted the Applicants interim authorisation to commence discussions and prepare the request for tender.

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 **Monday 30 August 2021**. Submissions should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000550 – Toowoomba Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Michael Pappa 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 [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 **Monday 30 August 2021** by email to exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Timetable

An indicative timetable for the ACCC's assessment is set out below.

Indicative Date	Stage in assessment process
2 April 2021	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
19 April 2021	Public consultation process begins.
7 May 2021	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation and substantive application.
16 August 2021	ACCC decision regarding draft determination and interim authorisation.
30 August 2021	Closing date to request pre-decision conference and for submissions in response to the draft determination.
September 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 Michael Pappa on (03) 9658 6531 or via email michael.pappa@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Director
Competition Exemptions Branch