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1 March 2023

By email

Dear Interested Party

Business Renewables Buying Group – application for authorisation AA1000634 – draft determination & interim authorisation

The ACCC has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by 1Circle Pty Ltd on behalf of the Business Renewables Buying Group (the **Group**) (together, the **Applicants**) on the 31 January 2023.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to allow the Applicants to form a joint renewable energy buying group in which the Group pools their electricity demand and conducts a joint procurement and negotiation process for the supply of electricity from renewable energy sources. The ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for a period of 11 years as sought by the Applicants.

The ACCC has also granted interim authorisation to enable the Group to initiate the joint electricity procurement process while the ACCC completes its assessment of the substantive application. Interim authorisation does not extend to the Group members entering into agreements with suppliers of electricity services.

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and interim authorisation is attached and also available on the [ACCC's 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 **15 March 2023**. Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the [public register](#) for this matter. If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Penny Bigham 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 **15 March 2023** 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 |
|------------------|--|
| 31 January 2023 | Lodgement of application and supporting submission. |
| 3 February 2023 | Public consultation process begins. |
| 1 March 2023 | Draft determination and interim authorisation decision |
| March 2023 | Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called. |
| March/April 2023 | 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 Penny Bigham on (07) 3052 1221 or by email at exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tess Macrae
Director
Competition Exemptions