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16/02/2022

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Dear Madam or Sir

Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group application for authorisation AA1000597 - draft determination & interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group (**GWRRG**) on 15 December 2021. This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions

GWRRG is seeking authorisation¹ under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) on behalf of itself and six Victorian Councils: Bass Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, East Gippsland Shire Council, Latrobe City Council, South Gippsland Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council (**Participating Councils**) (together, **the Applicants**).

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 11 years. The ACCC also granted interim authorisation to allow the parties to engage in the proposed conduct while the ACCC completes its assessment of the substantive application.

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 **2 March 2022**. Submissions should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000597 – Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Alex Cicchini 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.

¹ For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.acc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

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. Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, any conference would likely be held on-line.

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 **2 March 2022** 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
15 December 2021	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
16 December 2021	Public consultation process begins.
21 January 2022	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
16 February 2022	Draft determination and interim authorisation.
2 March 2022	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
March 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 Alex Cicchini on (03) 9910 9552 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Director
Competition Exemptions