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By email

Dear Interested Party

Customer Owned Banking Association - application for authorisation AA1000609—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 the Customer Owned Banking Association (COBA) on behalf of itself and its current and future members on 20 April 2022.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for 5 years. Authorisation would give COBA legal protection from competition laws to enable it to implement certain provisions of its Customer Owned Banking Code of Practice (the **2022 Code**).

The ACCC has also granted interim authorisation to enable COBA and its current and future members to make arrangements for finalisation and promotion of the 2022 Code.

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 **10 June 2022**. Submissions should be emailed to exemptions@acc.gov.au with the subject "AA1000609 – Customer Owned Banking Association – submission". If you prefer to make an oral submission, please contact Tanya Hobbs 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 **10 June 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
20 April 2022	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
28 April 2022	Public consultation process begins.
27 May 2022	Draft determination and interim authorisation decision
10 June 2022	Submissions due on draft determination including any request for conference if called.
June/July 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 Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029.

Yours sincerely



Susie Black
Director
Competition Exemptions