

Our ref: AA1000695
Contact officer: Hannah Craig
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29 August 2025

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Dear Interested Party

**Re: Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited application for authorisation
AA1000695 – Pre-decision conference**

Zero Waste Victoria has requested that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) convene a conference in relation to the draft determination issued by the ACCC on 11 August 2025 proposing to grant the application for authorisation AA1000695 with conditions.

As you are aware, the draft determination follows an application by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited (**SPSA**) for authorisation in respect of a voluntary product stewardship scheme for soft plastic packaging.

The ACCC reached a preliminary view in its draft determination that it was satisfied that, with proposed conditions, the proposed conduct would be likely to result in a benefit to the public and the benefit to the public would outweigh the detriment to the public that would result or be likely to result from the proposed conduct. The ACCC also decided to grant interim authorisation for certain aspects of the conduct.

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

Pre-decision conference

A pre-decision conference provides an opportunity for applicants and other interested persons to make oral submissions to the ACCC about its draft determination.

The ACCC will hold the conference on **19 September 2025** (likely commencing at **10 am AEST**), in **Sydney (venue TBC)** as well as **online**. Further details, including instructions on how to attend in person and online will be provided in due course. ACCC Commissioner Mick Keogh will chair the conference.

Under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) (the **Act**), the applicant and other interested persons who either received a notice from the ACCC following the issuing of the draft determination or whose presence the ACCC otherwise considers appropriate, may attend and participate in the conference. Please note that:

- If you represent a body corporate, your company or organisation may be represented by a person who, or by persons each of whom, is a director, officer or employee of the body corporate (**Representative**).
- Any person participating in the conference is entitled to have another person or other persons present to assist them (**Adviser**) (such as a legal or other professional), but the Act specifies that these Advisers are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish to attend, please express your interest by emailing exemptions@accc.gov.au by **5pm on Wednesday 3 September**. You should provide details of a contact name, telephone number, and e-mail address so that you can be notified of the conference arrangements when these become available (including a link to join virtually).

If you represent a company or organisation, please advise the ACCC in your expression of interest the names and position titles of the Representative(s) and Adviser(s) who wish to attend, and indicate which of the Representative(s) would be the chief spokesperson. In order to maximise the usefulness of the conference, the ACCC requests you consider limiting your attendees to a maximum of two Representatives and one Adviser.

Attached for your information are procedures usually followed at pre-decision conferences. Attendees may wish to provide a written comment for the conference in advance. If you intend to provide a written comment, please do so no later than **Friday 12 September 2025**. Instructions on where to submit written comments are in the attached procedures.

Please note that a record of the conference will be taken and published on the ACCC's public register.

Background

The ACCC's role as Australia's competition regulator includes assessing applications for authorisation. Broadly, the ACCC may grant authorisation if it is satisfied that the public benefits likely to result from certain conduct outweigh any public detriment. ACCC authorisation provides statutory protection from court action for certain conduct that might otherwise raise concerns under the competition provisions of the Act.

The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for the applicant and interested parties to make oral submissions to the ACCC about the draft determination before the ACCC makes a final determination in respect of SPSA's application for authorisation. Accordingly, parties who attend the conference are expected to make oral submissions in relation to the ACCC's draft determination. Where a party has already provided a written submission, the ACCC expects that their oral submission will focus on additional comments and not repeat views already expressed in writing.

The ACCC is not an environmental regulator, nor is the ACCC itself establishing, funding or managing SPSA's scheme. The Australian Government, including the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#), is working to reform Australia's packaging regulations to minimise packaging waste and pollution and build a circular economy for packaging. This reform is separate to SPSA's scheme.

A copy of this letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you require any further information in regard to the conference, please do not hesitate to contact Hannah Craig on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], or Miriam Kolacz on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

[Signed]

Naomi Menon
Director
Competition Exemptions