



Our ref: AA1000477
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27 March 2020

Jessica Reid
Partner
Maddocks

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Reid

Coles Group Limited - application authorisation AA1000477 – ACCC decision regarding request for inclusion in interim authorisation

I refer to your request on March 2020 that specified members of Retail Drinks Australia listed in **Attachment A** (the **Specified Members**) obtain the protection of the interim authorisation granted on 26 March 2020 to Coles Group Limited and other specified grocery retailers (the **Interim Authorisation**), to enable the Specified Members to discuss, enter into or give effect to any recommendation made by the Supermarket Taskforce or the main working sub-committee of the Taskforce, that is approved by the Minister, at any time.

In accordance with paragraph 25 of the Interim Authorisation, the ACCC has decided to approve Retail Drinks Australia's request for the Specified Members to obtain the protection of the Interim Authorisation on the condition that the Specified Members will be covered by the Interim Authorisation only in relation to conduct that is limited to implementing recommendations of the Supermarket Taskforce, or the main working sub-committee of the Supermarket Taskforce, that have been approved by the Minister for Home Affairs.

Duration of interim authorisation

The conditional interim authorisation will remain in effect until the ACCC makes a final determination regarding the application for authorisation made by Coles Group Ltd, or revokes the Interim Authorisation. Coles Group Limited has requested authorisation for six months from the date of the ACCC's final determination.

Reconsideration of interim authorisation

The ACCC may review a decision on interim authorisation at any time, including in response to feedback raised following interim authorisation. The ACCC's decision in relation to the interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not the final authorisation will be granted.

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 Louisa Wilson on (03) 9290 1474.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'DMcCracken-Hewson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel McCracken-Hewson
A/g General Manager
Adjudication Branch

ATTACHMENT A

Members of Retail Drinks Australia protected by the Interim Authorisation

- Hotel & Tourism Management Pty Ltd, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Hotel & Tourism Management Pty Ltd or its related bodies corporate;
- Top Cellars Group, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Top Cellars Group or its related bodies corporate;
- Beer Cartel, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Beer Cartel or its related bodies corporate;
- Liquor Marketing Group, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Liquor Marketing Group or its related bodies corporate;
- Wine Depot, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Wine Depot or its related bodies corporate;
- Diageo Australia Limited and its related bodies corporate;
- Red Bottle Group, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Red Bottle Group or its related bodies corporate; Liquor Legends Charnwood & Hawker and its related bodies corporate; and
- Vantage Group, its related bodies corporate, and the class of persons comprising each of the owners and/or operators of liquor stores trading under a brand owned or licensed by Vantage Group or its related bodies corporate.