



Our ref: CB10000471  
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30/10/2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**Collective Bargaining Notification (CB10000471) lodged by Virginia Irrigation Association Incorporated — interested party consultation**

**Introduction**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) has received a collective bargaining notification from Virginia Irrigation Association Incorporated (**VIA**). Existing and future members of VIA intend to share information amongst the group and collectively bargain with the South Australian Water Corporation (**SA Water**) in relation to the renegotiation of VIA member irrigators' contracts with SA Water.

A copy of the notification is available from the [ACCC's public register](#).

The purpose of this letter is to invite your comments as a party who may be interested in providing a submission to the ACCC in relation to these arrangements.

**Collective bargaining notification process**

Collective bargaining occurs where two or more competitors come together to negotiate terms and conditions (including price) with a supplier or customer. Without the legal protection provided by a collective bargaining notification, these arrangements can breach the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (the Act).

The legal protection provided by a collective bargaining notification commences 14 days after the notification is lodged, unless the ACCC objects within this period.

**Request for submissions**

When the ACCC receives a collective bargaining notification it will assess the likely public benefits and detriments, including any lessening of competition, to determine whether it should object to the notification.

You are invited to comment on the likely public benefits and likely effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from VIA members' proposed collective bargaining arrangements.

Submissions should be provided by close of business **13 November 2019**. Please email submissions to [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au) with the subject title "CB10000471– Virginia Irrigation Association Incorporated – submission."

Alternatively, if you prefer to make an oral submission please contact Madeleine Houghton on 02 9230 3816.

Submissions received by the ACCC will be placed on a public register, subject to any requests for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

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 Madeleine Houghton on 02 9230 3816.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Black".

Susie Black  
Director  
Adjudication Branch

**Interested parties**

Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA)

SA Water

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of South Australia

Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA)