

9 December 2003

FILE No:	
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Stephanie Chenoweth  
Acting Director – Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
Dickson ACT 2602

Dear Ms Chenoweth

Application by the Victorian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation on behalf of the Clay, Brick and Pavers Association of Victoria (A 90738).

I refer to your letter dated 5 December 2003 and in response to the questions raised therein advise as follows:

*Do you agree with the public benefits that the VBBTF has claimed will flow from the levy arrangements?*

I believe the public benefits will and have actually begun to flow. Ultimately the levy will assist with a quality group of trades existing in the bricklaying field and this will help affordability and quality of outcomes.

*Do you consider that there might be any detriment to competition and/or the public caused by the levy agreements?*

I cannot see any detriment to competition from these arrangements and in fact the contrary will apply.

*Do you have any other comments on the levy arrangements?*

My only comments of a general nature are that I and HIA fully support the levy as a direct means of arresting a market deficiency that exists with a severe lack of bricklayers.

Yours sincerely  
**Housing Industry Association Ltd – Victorian Region**

**John Gaffney**  
Executive Director

