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Mr Tim Grimwade
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
ACCC
PO Box 1199
Dickson
CANBERRA ACT 2602

Dear Mr Grimwade

Further extension to stakeholder submission deadline

I am writing to you regarding the Department of Industry Tourism and Resources' (ITR) application to the ACCC for authorisation (lodged 18 March 2004). The application seeks authorisation on behalf of a number of State Tourism Organisations and the Australian Tourist Commission for the provision of promotional and wholesaling services to *accredited businesses* on a preferential and exclusive basis.

As advised in my letter to you of 7 May 2004, ITR has become aware of industry concerns in relation to the application. Since meeting with industry representatives on 12 May, ITR has obtained agreement from the applicants (ie participating State Tourism Organisations and the Australian Tourist Commission) to amend the submission to address industry concerns. We are currently drafting these amendments which we expect will be with you early next month (once the final text is agreed with all applicants).

In the meantime, and as discussed with members of your staff, we are seeking to have the ACCC's consultation process extended. This would allow stakeholders an opportunity to consider the proposed revisions (which relate to the removal of references to exclusive conduct and better defining preferential conduct), as well as to consider how the new tourism accreditation framework will affect their views on the conduct. The design of the new framework is expected to be finalised, with implementation under way, by July 2004.

To ensure stakeholders have sufficient time to consider these changes, ITR seeks to have the consultation process extended to the end of August 2004. We understand that this would not involve any additional fees and that the ACCC would advise stakeholders as soon as possible of this change (given that the current deadline for submissions is 28 May 2004).

Your consideration/confirmation of such an extension would be appreciated as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely


Kerry Rooney
General Manager
Business Development Group

24 May 2004

24 May 2004 12:53 PM