



FILE No:
DOC:
MARS/PRISM:

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
Dickson ACT 2602

5th January 2004

Subject: Victorian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation application for revocation and substitution of authorisation A90738.

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the letters I received from you on the 5th and 10th of December regarding the above subject, and following is my response to the specific issues you have requested my views on.

I do believe that there will be public benefits by the initiative that VBBTF has introduced. The main effect will be to ensure there are more trained and qualified brick and block layers in the field in coming years which will eliminate the shortages that are currently being experienced by the marketplace. When shortages occur laying rates escalate causing higher costs to the consumer and there are also considerable delay costs in construction times due to the shortages of the trade.

There is no detriment of competition that would harm the consumer as the member companies represent 95% of the supply of brick and masonry blocks in the Victorian market. These companies are committed to the long term goal of improving skills and reducing costs involved in the laying of walling products.

As a person who has been involved in the brick and masonry industry for more that 30 years the introduction of this funding will only improve the benefits to the consumer due to having more trades people qualified to lay walling product which will in turn take away the cyclical fluctuations in rising costs attributed to shortages of skilled trades people.

I trust this meets your requirement should there be any other requirement you wish to discuss pertaining to this issue please contact me.

Yours truly,


Mark O'Brien
Sales & Marketing Manager
Daniel Robertson Australia Pty. Ltd
(03) 9875 3011
0418 559 859

