



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

Our ref.: C2006/611
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Ms Alison Meares
Partner
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GPO Box 1433
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Dear Ms Meares

Application for authorisation A30243 lodged by the Association of Australian Bookmaking Companies Inc.

I refer to the above application for authorisation lodged by the Association of Australian Bookmaking Companies Inc. (AABC) with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) on 30 March 2006.

You would recall that, as part of this application, AABC requested that the ACCC grant interim authorisation to allow the commencement of negotiations with Racing Victoria Limited (RVL), Harness Racing Victoria (HRV), Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) and sporting organisations while the ACCC considers the merits of the substantive application.

I wish to advise that the ACCC has now considered this request and has decided to grant interim authorisation to allow AABC to commence negotiations with RVL, HRV and GRV.

In assessing the request for interim authorisation the ACCC has noted that the arrangements for which interim authorisation has been sought are limited in nature and importantly do not extend to entering into of collectively negotiated agreements at this time.

Participation in the collective negotiations also remains voluntary for both the AABC, its members and the counterparties - being RVL, GRV and HRV.

The ACCC at this stage has decided not to grant interim authorisation to allow AABC to commence negotiations with sporting organisations. On balance the ACCC considers it appropriate to reconsider AABC's request for interim authorisation to commence negotiations with sporting organisations at the time of issuing its draft determination in this matter.



Please be advised that the ACCC's decisions in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC. The ACCC may also review a grant of interim authorisation at any time.

A copy of 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 Ilona Balint on 02 6243 1113.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Scott Gregson
General Manager
Adjudication Branch