



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Our Ref: C2007/1249
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12 September 2007

Mr Peter Phillips
Manager, Policy & Research
Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia Inc
PO Box 1098
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Mr Phillips

The Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia and others – applications for authorisation A91054 and A91055 – draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by the Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia and others on 8 June 2007. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC in response to the draft determination.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached, including a summary of its reasons. For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to the Retailer Alert Scheme, subject to conditions, until 30 June 2011. The ACCC's assessment is set out in Chapter 6 of the draft determination.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the applicants or any interested party who may be dissatisfied with the ACCC's draft determination may request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'. A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination, you must notify the ACCC in writing by **2 October 2007**.

Alternatively, you are invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Submissions should be lodged by **2 October 2007**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached).

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the applications in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

8 June 2007	Lodgement of applications and supporting submission.
14 June 2007	Public consultation process begins.
12 July 2007	Closing date for submissions from interested parties on applications for authorisation.
30 August 2007	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
12 September 2007	Draft determination.
September/October 2007	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
October 2007	Final determination.

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 Sarah Chubb on (02) 6243 1088.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gregson
General Manager
Adjudication Branch