



Australian Government
Department of Industry
Tourism and Resources

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Mr Scott Gregson
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
GPO Box 3131
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Gregson

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED INTERIM AUTHORISATION FOR DALRYMPLE BAY QUEUE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

I am writing in response to your letter of 27 September 2007 seeking comments on the request by Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd for an interim authorisation from the ACCC for a queue management system for the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal (DBCT).

The Department considers that international demand for Australian coal will remain strong for the foreseeable future and result in continuing capacity constraints at DBCT. Given this likely scenario, termination of the queue management system prior to the ACCC making a final determination on the application to reauthorise the queue management system is likely to result in increased shipping queues and increased demurrage costs for coal exporters using the terminal. Agreement to the application for an interim authorisation would provide greater certainty for coal exporters, coal customers and infrastructure providers to plan future export operations whilst minimising the opportunity for increased demurrage costs.

Any queries regarding this letter can be made to the [redacted]
Coal Policy Section [redacted]

Yours sincerely

Chris Stapford
General Manager
Mining Industries Branch
Resources Division

5 October 2007

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