



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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10 September 2009

Mr Peter Armitage
Partner
Blake Dawson Lawyers
Level 36, Grosvenor Place
225 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Armitage

**Softwood Tasmania Joint Venture applications for authorisation
A91185 and A91186 – draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by Forestry Tasmania, Tasmanian Softwood Fund Pty Ltd and Southern Hemisphere Softwood Strategies (Softwood Tasmania Joint Venture) on 27 August 2009.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination is attached. For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation to the arrangements for 10 years.

Next Steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicants or any interested party 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 **24 September 2009**.

Alternatively, you are invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Submissions should be lodged by **24 September 2009**.

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 the application.

Timetable

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

27 August 2009	Lodgement of applications A91185 & A91186 and supporting submission.
10 September 2009	Draft determination issued in respect of applications A91185 & A91186.
September 2009	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
September/October 2009	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 Erin Donohue on 02 6243 1291.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Acting General Manager
Adjudication Branch