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22 January 2009

Darrell Channing
Director – Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke St
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Channing

I write on behalf of the Tasmanian Newsagents' Association (TNA). The TNA is the only newsagent representative body in Tasmania and represents some 90 newsagents. The TNA provides services to its members in conjunction with the Australian Newsagents' Federation (ANF) by agreement.

The TNA feels that application A91117 in its current form may give rise to newsagents in states other than those named in the application being included in the collective bargaining negotiations by default, and more specifically include newsagents or groups of newsagents who may not be members of any association.

Further, it is possible that any default inclusion of a specific newsagent in the collective bargaining process can occur without that newsagents knowledge as the particulars of those newsagents covered by the collective bargaining negotiation is not available on the public record.

We understand that there is a National Code of Conduct process for which this is the TNA's preferred method as it maintains a voluntary opt-in approach while also generating efficiency gains through the mutual self-regulation.

The TNA is aware that the ANF has engaged with many of the publishers and distributors named in the collective bargaining application A91117, and understands that the ACCC has offered guidance to the ANF in developing the Code of Conduct.

We request that we are kept informed of the outcome of the progress and of the outcome of authorisation application process.

Please direct all correspondence to Ben Kearney on ben@anf.net.au or by telephone on 0417 144 994.

Yours sincerely



Alan Berechree
Secretary
TNA Inc.

