



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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Our Ref: 42624
Contact Officer: Lauren Roy
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6 July 2010

[Name]
[Title]
[Organisation]

Dear [Name]

**Liquor Stax Australia Pty Ltd application for authorisation A91237
- interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received an application for authorisation from Liquor Stax. The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Liquor Stax is seeking authorisation, on behalf of around 200 small businesses operating liquor merchants and hotels, to collectively bargain with around 60 suppliers of inputs such as alcohol, cigarettes, poker machines and confectionery as well as services such as advertising, insurance and communications.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's website at www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister. Alternatively, you can contact Lauren Roy on (03) 9290 1823 or David Seccombe on (02) 6243 1394 to obtain a hard copy of the application and submission.

Interim authorisation

Liquor Stax has requested interim authorisation to collectively bargain with suppliers.

The ACCC endeavours to deal with requests for interim authorisation quickly. In making an assessment as to whether it is appropriate to grant interim authorisation, the ACCC is not required to undertake a full assessment of the benefit and detriment likely to arise as a result

of the proposed conduct.

The ACCC decides whether to grant interim authorisation on a case by case basis. Should an applicant request interim authorisation, the ACCC will usually consider a range of factors, including harm to the applicant and other parties if interim is or is not granted, possible benefit and detriment to the public, the urgency of the matter and whether the market would be able to return to substantially its pre-interim state if the ACCC should later deny authorisation.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

Submissions in relation to interim authorisation should be provided by **21 July 2010**.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to Liquor Stax's application for authorisation, please do so by **30 July 2010**.

Submissions can be made in writing to the ACCC's postal address or via email to adjudication@accc.gov.au. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Lauren Roy on (03) 9290 1823 or David Seccombe on (02) 6243 1394 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including oral submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion (guidelines are attached). If you make a submission via email, please state clearly whether you wish the submission to be placed on the public register in the covering email.

Timetable

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

30 June 2010	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
06 July 2010	Public consultation process begins.
21 July 2010	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
July 2010	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
30 July 2010	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
August 2010	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.

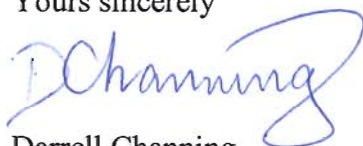
August/September 2010	Draft determination.
September/October 2010	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
October/November 2010	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

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 Lauren Roy on (03) 9290 1823 or David Seccombe on (02) 6243 1394.

Yours sincerely



Darrell Channing
Acting General Manager
Adjudication Branch