

Our Ref: 42624
Contact Officer: Lauren Roy
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**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

8 September 2010

[Name]
[Title]
[Organisation]

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Canberra ACT 2601
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Dear [Name]

**Liquor Stax Australia Pty Ltd application for authorisation A91237
- draft determination**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Liquor Stax on 30 June 2010. 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 60 suppliers of inputs such as alcohol, cigarettes, poker machines and confectionery as well as services such as advertising, insurance and communications.

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 for five years. The ACCC's assessment is set out in Chapter Three.

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 **22 September 2010**.

Alternatively, you are invited to make a written submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination. Submissions should be lodged by **22 September 2010**.

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 application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

30 June 2010	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
6 July 2010	Public consultation process begins.
21 July 2010	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation.
28 July 2010	ACCC granted interim authorisation.
30 July 2010	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
8 September 2010	Draft determination.
September/October 2010	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
October/November 2010	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 Lauren Roy on (03) 9290 1823 or David Secombe on (02) 6243 1394.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch

**Interested parties informed of draft determination
A91237 Liquor Stax Australia Pty Ltd**

CGU Workers Compensation (NSW) Ltd
Distilled Spirits Industry Council of Australia
Foster's Group Ltd
Samuel Smith and Son Pty Ltd