



**Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission**

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Our Ref: A91313  
Contact Officer: Tanya Hobbs  
Contact Number: 02 6243 1029

19 June 2012

Mr Hank Spier  
Spier Consulting - Legal  
4 Waller Crescent  
Campbell ACT 2612

By email: [spierconsulting@netspeed.com.au](mailto:spierconsulting@netspeed.com.au)

Dear Mr Spier

**Queensland Newsagents Association application for authorisation A91313  
- extending the period of consideration**

I refer to Queensland Newsagents Federation's (QNF) application for authorisation A91313 to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) lodged on 6 June 2012.

**Application for streamlined collective bargaining authorisation**

QNF requested consideration of its authorisation application under the ACCC's streamlined collective bargaining process. As outlined in the ACCC's Guide to Streamlined Collective Bargaining for Small Business (the Guide) the ACCC will endeavour to issue:

- a decision in relation to interim authorisation and a draft determination within 28 days; and
- a final determination of the authorisation application within three months.

Collective bargaining applications are often not contentious, which enables the ACCC to undertake a streamlined assessment process in accordance with the timing indicated in the Guide.

**Concerns raised in relation to A91313**

The ACCC understands that QNF did not discuss its proposed application with the target (Golden Casket) prior to lodging its application, a step that is recommended in

the Guide in preparing to lodge a streamlined authorisation application for collective bargaining. Following initial consultations with interested parties, concerns have been raised by interested parties including Golden Casket. These parties have requested more time to properly set out their concerns, particularly given the occurrence of public holidays in several states during the initial 1 week consultation period.

The ACCC's statutory authorisation process is intended to be very transparent and structured to ensure procedural fairness is afforded to all interested parties. In view of the concerns raised by the interested parties, I consider it appropriate to extend the ACCC's period of initial consultation. The extension of the ACCC's period of initial consultation means that the ACCC will be unable to consider QNF's application pursuant to the timeframes in the ACCC's streamlined collective bargaining process. Nonetheless, the ACCC will endeavour to consider QNF's application in a timely manner and well within the ACCC's normal authorisation timelines. Please see the revised timetable below.

**Revised timetable**

<b>6 June 2012</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
<b>6 June 2012</b>	Public consultation process begins.
<b>13 June 2012</b>	Closing date for submissions from interested parties.
<b>27 June 2012</b>	Extension of closing date for submissions from interested parties in relation to interim and substantive authorisation
<b>2 July 2012</b>	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
<b>End July 2012</b>	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation and draft determination.
<b>July/August 2012</b>	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
<b>August/September 2012</b>	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 Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Chadwick  
 General Manager  
 Adjudication Branch