



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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

19 June 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

**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 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. Following initial consultations with interested parties, significant issues have been raised by interested parties including Golden Casket. These parties have also 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. Please provide any submissions in relation to the application for interim and substantive authorisation by **COB 27 June 2012**.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments verbally, please contact Tanya Hobbs on (02) 6243 1029 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).

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

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