



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

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16 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Australian Newsagents' Federation Application for revocation of authorisation A91134 and A91174 and substitution of new authorisation A91407 - PRE-DECISION CONFERENCE

The Shopping Centre Council of Australia has requested that the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) convene a conference in relation to the draft determination issued by the ACCC on 1 May 2014. The draft determination proposes to grant the Australian Newsagents' Federation's (**ANF**) application for reauthorisation (application for revocation of A91134 and A91174 and substitution of A91407).

The draft determination follows an application by the ANF for reauthorisation for the ANF in its own right and on behalf of its Member State Branches to engage in collective bargaining with a range of suppliers. The ACCC concluded in its draft determination that it was satisfied, subject to conditions of authorisation, that the public benefit flowing from the proposed arrangements was likely to outweigh any anti-competitive detriment and proposed conditional authorisation to the application. A copy of the application and draft determination can be found on the ACCC's website <www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister>.

A pre-decision conference provides an opportunity for applicants and interested parties to make oral submissions to the ACCC about its draft determination.

The ACCC will hold the conference on **6 June 2014**, at the ACCC's Sydney office (level 20, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney). Video conferencing facilities may be made available in other ACCC offices, upon request. The conference will commence at 10:30am. Commissioner Dr Jill Walker will chair the conference.

Under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (the **Act**), the conference may be attended by the applicant and other interested parties. If you wish to attend, you must notify the ACCC of your intention by **28 May 2014**. Notifications must be in writing and addressed to:

The General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

By email: adjudication@accc.gov.au

You can also notify the ACCC by post to GPO Box 3131, Canberra ACT 2601, or by facsimile on (02) 6243 1212.

You should provide details of a contact name, telephone number, e-mail address or facsimile number, and mailing address so that you can be notified of any late changes to conference arrangements. If you are unable to attend the ACCC's Sydney office, please also indicate in which ACCC office you wish to attend.

If you represent a company or organisation you should identify the company or organisation and also provide a list of attendees and their position titles, and indicate who will be the chief spokesperson.

I would also note that, while conference participants may bring outside legal or other professional advisers to assist them, the Act prohibits these advisers from participating in conference discussions.

Attached for your information are procedures usually followed at pre-decision conferences.

A copy of this letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you require any further information in regard to the conference or wish to clarify whether you may be considered an 'interested person' within the terms of the Act, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Cunningham on (03) 9290 1856.

Yours sincerely



Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch

AN OUTLINE OF THE PROCEDURES USUALLY FOLLOWED AT CONFERENCES IN RELATION TO APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORISATION

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (**ACCC**) tries to conduct such conferences as informally, flexibly and speedily as possible.

An interested party attending a conference may have the assistance of outside legal or other professional advisers, however, they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

The conference will serve a useful purpose in that it gives the ACCC and all interested parties the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss the operation and effect of the applicant's conduct and the ACCC's draft determination. The applicant and/or interested persons have the opportunity to persuade the ACCC to accept their view. The ACCC benefits from direct contact with the parties, and its perceptions of public benefits and detriments are tested in a forum of interested parties where points are often quickly and forcefully made.

1. Preliminary procedures

- (a) When you arrive at the conference you should identify yourself to ACCC staff before the conference begins. Further, please complete the attendance book when arriving at the conference. This assists ACCC staff to identify attendees for the purpose of recording the discussion.
- (b) The Chair (a Commissioner) will open the conference by welcoming those present and outlining the requirements of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* and the manner in which the conference will be conducted.
- (c) If you intend to present a written comment (and you are encouraged to do so), it is helpful if the ACCC receives it before the conference date. It can then be copied and distributed at the conference. In this way, both the ACCC and other parties present are assisted, and your submission forms part of the conference record. If you cannot complete the written submission earlier, it is helpful if you come to the conference with extra copies which can be distributed.
- (d) Any document you present without making any request for it to be excluded from the public register will be placed on the ACCC's public register.

If you intend to present a submission at the conference and you wish it (or certain details in it) to be excluded from the public register, you should make your request to the Chair at the time of presenting the document, and you should state in general terms the reason for your request. (See the ACCC's [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#)).

2. General procedures

- (a) The conference has been convened to discuss the draft determination, to canvass points of view and to assist the ACCC's weighing of issues and its interpretation of the information given to it.
- (b) The procedure is discretionary. The Chair controls the order of discussion, and may take particular topics separately, so that all the discussion on any given topic may be heard at the one time.

- (c) The conference is not a court, and there is no right of cross-examination. You may request the Chair to ask questions of other parties present, but the Chair retains the discretion as to whether your questions will be put. The Chair, of course, may also directly question the parties at the conference, and they have discretion whether or not to answer.
- (d) ACCC staff present will make a record of the discussion. This will be in minute form, not a verbatim record. The conference record is placed on the public register, and all who attend the conference will receive a copy.
- (e) When the Chair believes that all present have been given a reasonable opportunity to express their views, he/she may terminate the conference.
- (f) The Chair (and any other Commissioner at the conference) cannot give a final decision at the close of the conference. Each Commissioner is only a representative of the ACCC and is required to report back to the ACCC, which will make the final decision.

3. Other matters

- (a) Following the pre-determination conference, the ACCC will review its draft determination in the light of discussion and further submissions made at the conference (or within a set period of time after the conference), and will publish its final determination as soon as possible thereafter.
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