



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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19 June 2014

Dear Madam / Sir

Victorian Taxi Association (VTA) – application for authorisation A91428 – grant of interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by the Victorian Taxi Association (VTA) on 12 May 2014. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached.

The ACCC considers that interim authorisation is appropriate as a transitional measure while the Victorian regional and country taxi industry adapts to the wider regulatory reform. However, the ACCC has not yet formed a view on whether final authorisation should be granted and, if so, the period for any such authorisation.

In this regard, the ACCC welcomes submissions from interested parties on whether authorisation should be granted for five years as requested or for a shorter transitional period only and if so what an appropriate transition period might be (see submissions below).

Interim authorisation protects the conduct over which it has been granted from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

Submissions

Submissions regarding the issue of the appropriate length of authorisation (if granted) and transition should be received no later than **1 July 2014**.

Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject 'A91428 – Victorian Taxi Association – submission'. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact John Rouw on (03) 9290 1402 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).

Next steps

The next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination that will take into account the submissions from the VTA and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give the VTA and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission on the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

As noted in the attached decision, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

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 John Rouw on (03) 9290 1402.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Dalins', is positioned above the typed name.

Marie Dalins
Director
Adjudication Branch