



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

Our Ref: 54572
Contact Officer: John Rouw
Contact Phone: 03 9290 1402

GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601

tel: (02) 6243 1111
fax: (02) 6243 1199

www.accc.gov.au

19 June 2014

David Samuel
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Taxi Association
Suite 2, 85 Salmon St
PORT MELBOURNE VIC 3207

By email: gnicholls@victaxi.com.au; lconstantelos@victaxi.com.au

Dear Mr Samuel

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.

Next steps

For your information, 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. In this regard the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of issuing its draft determination. 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.

Submissions

As set out in the interim decision, the ACCC is seeking submissions from the VTA and all interested parties regarding the issue of the appropriate length of authorisation (if granted) and an appropriate transition. Submissions on this issue should be received no later than **1 July 2014**.

In addition, the ACCC has received a further submission from the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs on the issue of substantive authorisation. If you wish to comment on the issues raised in this submission, please do so by **1 July 2014**.

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



Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch