



Mr Darrell Channing  
Director  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 313  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Channing

I refer to your letter dated 15 July 2015 inviting the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) to make a submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) on the Australian Paint Manufacturers Federation's application to apply a levy to fund a National Product Paint Product Stewardship Scheme.

DER supports product stewardship approaches to managing the disposal of materials where such schemes can work to effectively share costs with producers for the end-of-life management of products without significant adverse effects on competition. DER has previously supported AgStewardship Australia Limited's application to impose a levy as part of the drumMuster and ChemClear product stewardship programs (ACCC reference 52116).

DER confirms its support to apply a levy of up to \$0.15 per litre to certain architectural and decorative paints and wood care products to fund a product stewardship scheme for paint. This scheme would provide a nationally coordinated approach to the collection and safe disposal of these waste paints in Australia and is likely to improve the management of end-of-life paint.

The scheme is also likely to reduce the volume of paint disposal at household hazardous waste collection points, and hence reduce public costs. In Western Australia, around \$3 million is currently allocated annually to the Household Hazardous Waste Scheme. The scheme provides local governments and regional councils with funding to assist householders with the collection, storage and disposal of this waste.

Should you require further information please contact Mr Scott McKenzie, DER's Manager, Policy on (08) 6467 5395.

Yours sincerely

  
Jason Banks  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

28 July 2015