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26/10/2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Port of Townsville Limited & Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited - Application for authorisation A91545- draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Port of Townsville Limited on 8 July 2016.

Please see the ACCC's publication [Authorisation process - the basics](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Port of Townsville on behalf of itself and Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited seeks authorisation to jointly tender to procure towage services for the ports of Cairns, Townsville, Mourilyan and Lucinda.

Draft determination

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation until 30 June 2024.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **17 November 2016**. "Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "A91545 - Port of Townsville Limited - submission".

A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **10 November 2016**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to this application.

Submissions will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Timetable

The ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
8 July 2016	Lodgement of application and supporting submission including request for interim authorisation
13 July 2016	Public consultation process begins
22 July 2016	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation
4 August 2016	Interim authorisation
5 August 2016	Closing date for submission from interested parties on substantive application for authorisation
26 October 2016	Draft determination
17 November 2016	Closing date for submissions on draft determination
December 2016	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 contact Kabita Prasad on (02) 6243 1187 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Adjudication Branch