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By email

Dear Sir or Madam

Plumbing Plus Bathroom Kitchen Laundry Pty Ltd applications for authorisation A91523 & A91524 - draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by Plumbing Plus Bathroom Kitchen Laundry Pty Ltd (Plumbing Plus) on 18 January 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.

Plumbing Plus, on behalf of itself and its current and future members, is seeking authorisation to:

- collectively bargain and negotiate trading terms and supply arrangements with domestic and offshore suppliers, wholesalers and importers for the supply of plumbing and hardware materials to its members
- participate in a catalogue program, whereby members may elect to take part in joint promotions involving recommended (maximum) prices, and
- source, establish and negotiate a series of arrangements for the supply of specific products imported from overseas and domestic suppliers to its members for periods of up to five years on the condition that those suppliers will not provide or supply those specific products to non-members in Australia.

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 for ten years.

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 **15 April 2016**. "Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "A91523-A91524 – Plumbing Plus - 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 **15 April 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 these applications.

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
18 January 2016	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
28 January 2016	Commencement of public consultation process.
19 February 2016	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
24 March 2016	Draft determination.
April / May 2016	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
May / June 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 Elizabeth Batten on (02) 6243 1359 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Hatfield
Director
Adjudication Branch