



23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601

GPO Box 3131
Canberra ACT 2601

tel: (02) 6243 1111

fax: (02) 6243 1199

adjudication@acc.gov.au

www.accc.gov.au

Our ref: 59649
Contact officer: Saraj Bhullar
Contact phone: 03 9290 1941

13/04/2016

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

Victorian Farmers Federation - application for authorisation A91534 - interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) is currently consulting on an application for authorisation received from Victorian Farmers Federation on 7 April 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a potentially interested party, to comment on the application. Please see our publication [Authorisation process - the basics](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Application for authorisation

Victorian Farmers Federation seeks authorisation on behalf of current and future members of chicken growers groups to collectively bargain with chicken meat processors for:

- growing fees and other terms and conditions of chicken growing contracts;
- adjustment and review of growing fees and other matters arising from time to time under/or in relation to terms of chicken growing contracts;
- resolution of disputes which from time to time arise under chicken growing contracts or otherwise arise between the processor and a grower or growers.

These chicken growers groups provide growing services for chicken meat processors, Baida Poultry Pty Ltd, Hazeldene Chicken Farm Pty Ltd, Ingham Enterprises Pty Ltd and Turi Foods Farming Division Pty Ltd.

A copy of the application is available on our website www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister.

Background

The ACCC previously granted authorisation for Victorian Farmers Federation current and future member growers to engage in collective bargaining with the chicken meat processors to whom they supplied growing services. Authorisation was granted until 12 May 2015.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

Further, the ACCC invites you to outline your general experience of the collective bargaining arrangements during the term of the previous authorisation. The ACCC would also welcome your views on the public benefits and detriments you consider have actually resulted from the collective bargaining arrangements during the previous authorisation period.

If you intend to provide a submission on the application for authorisation please do so by **29 April 2016**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "A91534 – Victorian Farmers Federation – submission".

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Saraj Bhullar on (03) 9290 1941 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including oral 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 progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information

7 April 2016	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
13 April 2016	Public consultation process begins.
29 April 2016	Closing date for submissions on draft authorisation.
6 May 2016	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
May 2016	Draft determination
June 2016	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called
June 2016	Final determination

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the application at the draft determination and final determination stage. If you are able to, please provide a nominated contact email address for future correspondence.

You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the application.

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 Saraj Bhullar on (03) 9290 1941 or Saraj.bhullar@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication