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11/05/2016

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

Victorian Farmers Federation – Authorisation A91534 – Draft Determination and invitation to make submissions

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) on 7 April 2016.

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

The VFF is seeking authorisation for its chicken grower members to collectively bargain with the chicken processor they supply.

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 **27 May 2016**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "A91534 – Victorian Farmers Federation – 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 **27 May 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 attached 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.

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 determination
11 May 2016	Draft determination
May/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 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.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication