



Australian  
Competition &  
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12 May 2016

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Council Solutions & Ors application for authorisation A91520 — Revised timetable**

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the above application for authorisation. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the public consultation process and to provide an update on the likely timing of the final determination in this matter.

Having received the application in November 2015, the ACCC commenced a public consultation process on the application for authorisation. At that time, the ACCC provided interested parties with an indicative timetable in which it proposed to issue a final determination in or around April 2016.

In April 2016 we advised that the ACCC has decided to extend the statutory timeframe for release of a final determination in this matter until 23 December 2016. This follows a request by Council Solutions for an extension of time to provide a written submission to the ACCC until 30 May 2016. Council Solutions has indicated that it will also use the extended timeframe to consult further with industry participants about the proposed arrangements.

Although the statutory timeframe has been extended until December, the ACCC will continue to progress its assessment of the application for authorisation in a timely manner and our current expectation is that a final determination will be issued well before December 2016.

A revised indicative timetable, including steps in the process that have occurred to date, is set out below for your information.

<b>30 November 2015</b>	Lodgement of application and supporting submission
<b>3 December 2015</b>	Public consultation process begins
<b>18 December 2015</b>	Closing date for public submissions from interested parties ( <i>First opportunity for interested parties to provide written submissions</i> )
<b>19 January 2016</b>	Applicant responds to issues raised in public consultation process

<b>11 February 2016</b>	ACCC issues draft determination and ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation
<b>26 February 2016</b>	Closing date for interested parties to request that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference
<b>11 March 2016</b>	Closing date for public submissions on the draft determination (extended from 26 February 2016) <i>(Second opportunity to provide written submissions)</i>
<b>21 March 2016</b>	Pre-decision conference held in Adelaide <i>(Opportunity for Applicant and interested parties to make oral submissions on the draft determination)</i>
<b>4 April 2016</b>	Closing date for written submissions following the pre-decision conference <i>(Third opportunity for interested parties to provide written submissions)</i>
<b>29 April 2016</b>	Six month statutory timeframe to make a final determination extended from 2 July 2016 until 23 December 2016
<b>30 May 2016</b>	Applicant to respond to issues raised in public consultation process (extended from 18 April 2016)
<b>June 2016</b>	Consultation with interested parties in relation to information and issues raised in Council Solutions' written submission <i>(Fourth opportunity for interested parties to provide written submissions)</i>
<b>July / August 2016</b>	ACCC issues final determination

A copy of this timetable has been provided to the applicant. Please note that this timetable is subject to Council Solutions providing a written submission by 30 May and any further consultation that the ACCC may need to undertake.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Elizabeth Batten on (02) 6243 1359.

This letter will be made available on the ACCC public register.

Yours sincerely



Baethan Mullen  
Acting General Manager  
Adjudication Branch