



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

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13 May 2016

The Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Federal Member for Sturt
429 Magill Road
St Morris South Australia 5068

Dear Mr Pyne

Council Solutions & Ors - Application for authorisation A91520

Thank you for your correspondence received on 29 April 2016 in relation to the ACCC's draft determination on the application for authorisation lodged by Council Solutions.

In your correspondence you raised a number of issues for the ACCC to take into account when making a final determination in relation to this application. I assure you that the ACCC is aware of the matters raised and will take them into account prior to issuing a final determination.

Extension to statutory timeframe for the ACCC to make a final determination

By way of update, on 13 April 2016 Council Solutions requested an extension of time to provide a written submission to the ACCC and noted that it is continuing to engage with industry in relation to the proposed arrangements for which authorisation is sought.

In response to Council Solutions' request, the ACCC has decided to extend the relevant period for considering the application until 23 December 2016, which is essentially the maximum extension permitted under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Act). Under the Act, the ACCC may only extend the statutory timeframe once and therefore we have extended the period by the maximum period in order to allow for unforeseen circumstances.

Council Solutions will now provide its written submission in response to oral and written submissions by 30 May 2016. Interested parties will then be invited to make any comments on any new information or arguments provided to the ACCC as part of Council Solutions' written submission.

Timetable

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.

An indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

30 November 2015	Lodgement of application and supporting submission
3 December 2015	Public consultation process begins

18 December 2015	Closing date for public submissions from interested parties (<i>First opportunity for interested parties to provide written submissions</i>)
19 January 2016	Applicant responds to issues raised in public consultation process
11 February 2016	ACCC issues draft determination and ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation
26 February 2016	Closing date for interested parties to request that the ACCC convene a pre-decision conference
11 March 2016	Closing date for public submissions on the draft determination (extended from 26 February 2016) (<i>Second opportunity to provide written submissions</i>)
21 March 2016	Pre-decision conference held in Adelaide (<i>Opportunity for Applicant and interested parties to make oral submissions on the draft determination</i>)
4 April 2016	Closing date for written submissions following the pre-decision conference (<i>Third opportunity for interested parties to provide written submissions</i>)
29 April 2016	Six month statutory timeframe to make a final determination extended from 2 July 2016 until 23 December 2016
30 May 2016	Applicant to respond to issues raised in public consultation process (extended from 18 April 2016)
June 2016	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>)
July / August 2016	ACCC issues final determination

We will shortly be providing this revised timetable to the applicant and interested parties. 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 and thank you for taking the time to write in relation to your concerns. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Baethan Mullen on (02) 6243 3067.

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

Yours sincerely



Rayne de Gruchy
Chief Operating Officer