



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

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Justin Jones
Counsel
Ashurst Australia

Dear Mr Jones

**The Eastern Energy Buyers Group applications for authorisation A91594 & A91595—
request for interim authorisation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by the Eastern Energy Buyers Group on 4 August 2017. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached.

Interim authorisation is granted to enable EEBG to investigate potential electricity, gas and gas transport supply options, prepare tender documents, and issue one or more tenders. Interim authorisation does not extend to EEBG or its members entering into any supply agreements for electricity, gas or gas transport services.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

Next steps

For your information, the next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any submissions from EEBG and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give both EEBG and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission on the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

As noted in the attached decision, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. In this regard the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of issuing its draft determination. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

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 Kaitlin Hanrahan on 03 9290 1917.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication