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13/10/2017

By email

Dear Sir/Madam

Eastern Energy Buyers Group – Applications for authorisation A91594 & A91595 – draft determination

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by Eastern Energy Buyers Group on 4 August 2017.

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

EEBG is seeking authorisation for its members to run joint tender processes to select electricity, gas and gas transport services suppliers, individually enter into electricity and gas supply agreements with the successful tenderer(s) at the same price and on substantially the same terms, and make joint decisions regarding the ongoing administration of those agreements.

EEBG also seeks authorisation for future members to participate in the proposed conduct, provided the combined annual energy consumption by the group does not exceed 16 Petajoules of gas or 4.5 Terawatt hours of electricity, which represents around 10% of Victorian consumption.

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 11 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 **3 November 2017**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject "A91594 & A91595 – EEBG – 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 **30 October 2017**.

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 these applications.

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 continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
4 August 2017	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
10 August 2017	Public consultation process begins.
1 September 2017	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
13 October 2017	Draft determination.
October/November 2017	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
November 2017	Final determination.

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 me on 03 9290 1475 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication