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1. BACKGROUND

On 24 April 2020 the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) granted conditional interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation AA1000504, lodged by the MCA.

In its decision to grant interim authorisation, the ACCC authorised companies listed in a Schedule of Participants to engage in proposed conduct as set out in paragraphs 10-14 of the decision.

Condition 3 of the decision requires the MCA to provide the ACCC with regular updates on the implementation of the proposed conduct, including any material developments and arrangements, at a frequency agreed with the ACCC.

On 5 May the ACCC advised the MCA of its view that Condition 3 reports should be provided fortnightly, with the first report to be provided on Monday, 11 May 2020 or shortly thereafter.

This is the fifth report under Condition 3, which sets out further progress the industry has made towards ensuring the availability of critical supplies for mining operations.
2. COMMUNICATIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN TOWARDS ESTABLISHING MATERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The MCA has continued to engage with participants through its working groups and in bilateral discussions with potential suppliers (Australian manufacturers and separately distributors in Australia sourcing supply from overseas distributors and manufacturers). In addition, the MCA continues to work with those listed on the schedule and members to understand and resolve areas of short supply.

At this point in time the most pressing area of concern remains the supply of masks suitable for use in mining operations in the resources sector. A material arrangement is expected to be formalised in the coming weeks which will contribute to greater security of supply of respiratory masks.