

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
 Attention – Competition Exemptions
 Via online submission

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia application for authorisation (AA1000695)

I am pleased to provide this submission for Accord Australasia. By way of background, Accord is the Australian national industry association representing the manufacturers and marketers of formulated hygiene, personal care and specialty products, their raw material suppliers, and service providers. Accord member companies make and/or market a broad range of consumer and commercial goods that play integral roles in safeguarding public health, promoting personal hygiene, boosting confidence and emotional wellbeing, maintaining comfortable homes and enhancing quality of life, as well as keeping the wheels of commerce and industry turning. A list of Accord member companies is available on our website: accord.asn.au/about/members.

The formulated hygiene, cosmetic, personal care and specialty products industry is a significant industry sector manufacturing and/or importing quality chemical-based products. Our industry's products include household and commercial cleaning agents; household and hospital disinfectants; industrial and agricultural sanitisers; adhesives and sealants; and essential personal care/hygiene products like oral care products, hand sanitisers and sunscreens. Here is a snapshot of our sector's many products:



Accord is an interested party in relation to this application, and is an affiliate industry association supporter of the National Plastics Recycling Scheme (NPRS) managed by the AFGC. We have previously provided financial and in-kind support to NPRS as we support development of effective stewardship approaches for managing soft plastic packaging waste.

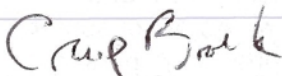
Consistent with this, we support the establishment of Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia and therefore both the applications for urgent interim authorisation and full authorisation.

Soft plastic packaging waste has been shown to be a difficult to recover and recycle waste stream that warrants a dedicated and adequately funded stewardship program of its own.

Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia will provide the collective, industry-driven governance arrangement needed for sustainable management of Australia's soft plastic packaging waste. This will provide substantial benefits for the community and the environment.

From Accord's perspective, there appear to be no adverse impacts on competition based on the details for the voluntary scheme which were outlined in the authorisation submission provided to ACCC by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig Brock'.

Craig Brock
Policy and Public Affairs Director
Accord Australasia Limited

3 April 2025