

David Hatfield  
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Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
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Via: [adjudication@acc.gov.au](mailto:adjudication@acc.gov.au)

17 August 2020

Dear David

**RE: Ingham's Group Ltd – AA1000527 – interim authorisation**

The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) welcomes the opportunity to provide its views as an interested party on the interim authorisation AA1000527.

The AFGC acknowledges the ongoing work of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to flex and adapt Australia's competition framework to enable continued business operations for essential services to consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AFGC and its members have experienced and utilised the benefits of authorisation AA1000477-1 granted to supermarkets to enable them to cooperate to ensure fair and equitable supply of grocery products across Australia. The AFGC considers that this authorisation in relation to the production, processing and supply of chicken meat products in Victoria will similarly enable suppliers to continue to provide chicken products to Victorian consumers during the increased stage four lockdown measures.

The AFGC supports the limitations placed on the authorisation, particularly that it does not extend to collective decisions relating to price or arrangements between processors and their growers or supply arrangements between processors and their respective customers. These limitations ensure that the authorisation can be used to pursue its intention within the Proposed Conduct without extending into matters that would be inappropriate.

As with the authorisation relating to supermarkets, the AFGC considers that this authorisation should only be in operation for the length of time necessary to ensure the continued supply of essential goods to Australians. Once the pandemic ceases to impact the Australian community, the authorisation should be repealed, and Australia's competition regulations should return to their usual operation.

The AFGC will continue to engage with the ACCC regarding appropriate authorisations and other needs of our essential industry to ensure Australians can continue to access food and grocery products throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Should the ACCC desire any further information regarding this submission I would ask that you contact AFGC's Director, Industry Affairs, Samantha Blake ([REDACTED]).

Yours sincerely



Dr Geoffrey Annison  
Acting Chief Executive Officer