Susan Philp  
Director, Adjudication  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601  
adjudication@accc.gov.au

Subject: AA1000504 – Minerals Council of Australia – Submission

Dear Ms Philp

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the department) supports the authorisation to enable the Minerals Council of Australia, its members and seven other mining and exploration industry bodies and their members to:

- reach agreements to collaborate to share inventories of and rationalise demand for critical supplies and services;
- coordinate scheduling and supply chain activities of those supplies and services;
- share details of potential suppliers of PPE; and
- ensure that the mining industry can continue to operate safely and efficiently during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resources sector has developed a set of health and safety protocols to protect workers and local communities. They include strict standards on transport and procedures on mine sites. Adherence to these health and safety protocols has been aided by the interim authorisation of the proposed conduct as it has allowed the sector to source and purchase key medical and non-medical PPE at a time when there has been a shortage of supply.

The resources sector remains a reliable supplier to our major trading partners and will continue to be a key driver underpinning the Australian economy.

The department supports the authorisation remaining in place until supply chains return to normal.

Yours sincerely

Paul Trotman
Head, Resources Division
22 May 2020