



Our ref: AA1000651
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2/11/2023

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Dear Sir/Madam

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils' application for authorisation AA1000651 – interested party consultation

On 24 October 2023, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the **ACCC**) received an application for authorisation from Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (**SSROC**) on behalf of itself and its 12 Member Councils. This letter is to invite you to comment. You are welcome to pass this letter on to others who may wish to make submissions.

SSROC is seeking authorisation¹ under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). Authorisation would give the parties legal protection from competition laws to engage in collectively inviting tenders, evaluating responses, negotiating contracts and carrying a master supply agreement with preferred suppliers in respect of the processing of comingled recycling in yellow-lidded curb-side bins and the disposal of residuals (but not collection of these material) (known as the Comingled Recycling Sustainability Solutions (**CRESS**) project). SSROC is seeking authorisation for 11 years. A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#).

Interim authorisation

SSROC has also requested urgent interim authorisation to allow it to engage in reviewing and finalising the CRESS Tender Specifications for the invitation of tenders, advertising and inviting tenders, receiving and analysing responses, and evaluating the tenders, prior to the ACCC's final determination in relation to the substantive application for authorisation.

Making a submission

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the application for authorisation. In making your submission, please provide information, evidence and views about the likely public benefits, effects on competition and any other public detriment that you consider will result from the proposed conduct.

If you intend to provide a submission, please do so by **17 November 2023**. If you wish to request an extension, please contact us on the details below as early as possible. Submissions after the due date (or after any extension granted) may not be taken into account. Submissions in relation to interim authorisation should be provided by **17 November 2023**. Extensions are not normally granted for submissions on interim authorisation.

¹ For information about Authorisations, please see <https://www.accc.gov.au/business/exemptions/authorisation>

Submissions should be lodged via the web form accessible on the public register page for this matter. Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Ben Janover via the details at the end of this letter.

Your submission **will** be placed on the ACCC's [authorisations public register](#) unless you have made a request (with reasons) for us to exclude part or all of the submission from the public register. (see [Guidelines for Excluding Information from the Public Register for more information on how to make a request and how we assess requests](#)).


Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information, and an up to date version (including any changes) will be posted on the public register.

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
24 October 2023	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
17 November 2023	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation and substantive application.
December 2024	ACCC decision on interim authorisation and draft determination.
December 2023/January 2024	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
February/March 2024	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Janover on +61 3 9290 1813 or exemptions@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Naomi Menon
Director
Competition Exemptions