Our ref: AA1000564
Contact officer: Robert Janissen
Contact phone: 02 6243 1387

7/10/2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Mereenie gas joint marketing application for authorisation – interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Central Petroleum Limited and Central Petroleum Mereenie Pty Ltd (as trustee for the Central Petroleum Unit Trust) and Macquarie Mereenie Pty Ltd (**the Applicants**) on 29 July 2021. A copy of the ACCC decision is attached.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

Next steps

For your information, the next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any submissions from the Applicants and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give both the Applicants and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission followiong the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

As noted in the attached decision, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. In this regard the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of issuing its draft determination. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Janissen on 02 6243 1387

Yours sincerely

David Hatfield
Director
Competition Exemptions