



Our ref: DWERGEN280/22

Enquiries: Scott McKenzie, Ph [REDACTED]

Ms Penny Bigham
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
Analyst Competition Exemptions
exemptions@acc.gov.au

Dear Ms Bigham

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION AA1000627 – COLES AND OTHER PARTICIPATING SUPERMARKETS – INITIAL CONSULTATION

The McGowan Government is committed to avoiding and recovering waste plastics to support the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* targets and Western Australia's move towards a more circular economy.

Preliminary estimates indicate around 45,000 tonnes per year of consumer soft plastics packaging becomes waste in Western Australia. The REDcycle program makes an important contribution to collecting and recovering these soft plastics. REDcycle's recent suspension of services is negatively impacting plastics recycling and potentially undermining public confidence in recycling systems.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation supports the application for authorisation (AA1000627) from Coles Group Limited (Coles), Woolworths Group Limited and ALDI Stores (together, the Participants) and any Program Partners to engage in certain conduct in connection with the Soft Plastics Taskforce to explore solutions to address the immediate effects of the suspension of the REDcycle recovery and recycling program.

Yours sincerely



Sarah McEvoy
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STRATEGIC POLICY**

19 December 2022