



Our ref: DWERDG08/21
Enquiries: Scott McKenzie, Ph 08 6364 6994

Mr Gavin Jones
Director, Competition Exemption
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

Email: exemptions@acc.gov.au

Attention: Tom Whitby

Dear Mr Jones

Paintback Limited application for Authorisation AA1000536 — interested party consultation

Thank you for your letter dated 5 January 2021, regarding Paintback Limited's application for re-authorisation to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). I understand that the ACCC previously granted authorisation to impose a \$0.15 per litre levy to the cost of certain architectural and design paints, and woodcare products (collectively, A&D paint) to fund the Paintback Scheme and its collection and disposal activities (A91405). This conduct is authorised until 1 June 2021.

You have advised that Paintback Limited is seeking reauthorisation for the same conduct for an additional 10 years (AA1000536).

Context

In 2019, Western Australia's Premier and Minister for Environment released the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (Waste Strategy), which aims for Western Australia to become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. The Waste Strategy contains objectives to avoid waste, recover more value and resources from waste, and protect the environment from the impacts of waste, supported by ambitious though achievable targets.

The Waste Strategy contains principles including shared responsibility. Product stewardship gives effect to the principle of shared responsibility by requiring producers and consumers to contribute to the impacts of consumption (such as recycling or disposal costs) which might otherwise be borne by taxpayers and the broader community.

Western Australia supports a coordinated national approach to product stewardship because it has the potential to be more efficient and effective than individual state/territory-based approaches.

Western Australia supports Paintback on the basis that is an effective national product stewardship scheme which has delivered positive resource recovery outcomes since its introduction and has helped to offset the costs of paint disposal/recovery previously borne by Government and the broader community.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation confirms its support for PaintBack Limited's application (AA1000536) to impose a \$0.15 per litre levy to A&D paint to fund the Paintback Scheme and its collection and disposal activities for an additional 10 years.

Yours sincerely



Mike Rowe
DIRECTOR GENERAL

15 January 2021