



Australian Venue Co. – Four licensed venues in metropolitan Sydney

MN-10006

Phase 1 Determination

Acquisition may be put into effect

3 March 2026

1. Determination and statement of reasons

Notified acquisition	AVC Operations Pty Limited (AVC) proposes to acquire substantially all of the assets (including the exclusive right to carry on the businesses in succession of the vendors) of Public House Petersham, The Erko, The Golden Sheaf and Barangaroo House (the Target Venues) (together, the Acquisition).
Determination	The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has determined under section 51ABZE(1) of the <i>Competition and Consumer Act 2010</i> (Cth) that the Acquisition may be put into effect.
Parties to the Acquisition	<p>The acquirer, AVC, is a subsidiary of Australian Venue Co. Holdings Limited, which operates licensed venues throughout Australia and New Zealand, primarily pubs, as well as bars, clubs and licensed restaurants. AVC’s venues are individually branded and predominantly located in inner-city and metropolitan areas, offering food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, function rooms, live entertainment and gaming facilities.</p> <p>Public House Petersham is a pub located at 292 Stanmore Road, Petersham NSW 2049. The seller is Newington Nominees Pty Limited as trustee for Newington Trust.</p> <p>The Erko (Erskineville Hotel) is a hotel with food and accommodation located at 102 Erskineville Road, Erskineville NSW 2043. The seller is Ersko Pty Limited as trustee for The Ersko Trust.</p> <p>The Golden Sheaf is a pub and late-night venue located at 429 New South Head Road, Double Bay NSW 2026. The seller is Sherilyn Pty. Limited as trustee for Solotrust Unit Trust.</p> <p>Barangaroo House is a three-level dining venue located at Building R1, Southern Residue, 35 Barangaroo Avenue, Barangaroo NSW 2000. The seller is Barangaroo Pty Limited as trustee for Barangaroo Trust and Mash Barangaroo Pty. Limited as trustee for The Mash Barangaroo Trust.</p> <p>Public House Petersham, The Erko, and the Golden Sheaf are owned by Solotel Group entities, which operate 27 licensed venues across Sydney, Paramatta, and Brisbane. Barangaroo House is co-owned by Solotel Group and Matt Moran.</p>
Overlap between the parties	The parties overlap in the supply of retail hospitality venues in metropolitan Sydney.
Reasons for determination	<p>When making a determination in Phase 1, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) undertakes a competition assessment and considers whether it is appropriate for an acquisition to be approved or subject to further assessment in Phase 2 in accordance with section 51ABZJ of the <i>Competition and Consumer Act 2010</i> (Cth) (the Act). In doing so, the ACCC must have regard to the object of the Act and all relevant matters, including the interests of consumers.</p> <p>For more information about the ACCC’s approach to considering notified acquisitions, see the ACCC’s merger assessment guidelines and interim merger process guidelines.</p>

	<p>In conducting its competition assessment, the ACCC has considered the information and documents that were submitted with the notification form and publicly available information.</p> <p>The ACCC has determined that the Acquisition may be put into effect as it considers that the Acquisition is unlikely to have the effect of substantially lessening competition in any relevant market. In reaching its decision, and based on the material before it, the ACCC makes the following findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The aggregation in retail hospitality venues arising from the Acquisition is minimal in respect of each Target Venue including at a local level.• AVC will continue to face competition from alternative retail hospitality venues in the local areas surrounding the Target Venues.
Applications for review	<p>A notifying party, or other person who has been allowed to do so by the Australian Competition Tribunal, may apply for review if they are dissatisfied with the determination. Pursuant to section 100C of the Act, applications for review of the determination are to be made to the Australian Competition Tribunal before the end of 14 calendar days after this statement of reasons was included on the ACCC's Acquisitions Register. To confirm whether there has been any application for review, please contact the Australian Competition Tribunal.</p>

Determination made by a division of the Commission constituted by a direction issued pursuant to section 19 of the Act