



Notification Waiver Determination

Vets Central – West Toowoomba Veterinary Surgery in QLD

Acquisition	VC Operations (WA) Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Vets Central Holdings Pty Ltd (together, with its subsidiaries, Vets Central), applied for a notification waiver in respect of its proposed acquisition of 100% of the business assets of West Toowoomba Veterinary Surgery, as described in the transaction documents provided as part of the application (the Acquisition).
Determination	The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has determined under section 51ABV(1)(a) of the <i>Competition and Consumer Act 2010</i> (Cth) that the Acquisition is not required to be notified.
Date of determination	10 March 2026

Parties to the Acquisition	<p>The acquirer, Vets Central, is an Australian-owned veterinary group that owns and operates 80 first opinion veterinary practices across Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, Vets Central's practices provide core and ancillary veterinary services, for household pets as well as livestock, and other exotic species. The services primarily include routine, planned, and emergency veterinary services (excluding after-hours services).</p> <p>The target, West Toowoomba Veterinary Surgery, is a single full-service veterinary practice in the Toowoomba area of Queensland. The business provides a range of first opinion core and ancillary veterinary services for household pets (extending to exotic pets) in the local area.</p> <p>Vets Central and West Toowoomba Veterinary Surgery supply first opinion veterinary services to household pets, livestock, and exotic species in Queensland.</p>
Explanation for determination	<p>In making this notification waiver determination, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has considered the information provided with the notification waiver application and had regard to the factors in section 51ABV(2)(b) of the <i>Competition and Consumer Act 2010</i> (Cth) (the Act).</p> <p>Based on the information provided in the application, the ACCC considers that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">there is no geographic horizontal overlap between Vets Central and West Toowoomba Veterinary Surgery in the supply of veterinary services in Toowoomba.the presence of alternative suppliers of veterinary services in Toowoomba and more broadly at the state and national level.

	<p>The ACCC has also had regard to the likelihood that, if the Acquisition were put into effect, the notification thresholds determined under section 51ABP(1) of the Act would apply.</p> <p>While the ACCC considers that the notification thresholds are likely to be met, given that material competition concerns are unlikely to arise, the ACCC has determined that the Acquisition is not required to be notified.</p> <p>The ACCC considers that the determination is consistent with the object of the Act and the interests of consumers in promoting competition.</p> <p>For more information about the ACCC's approach to considering notification waiver applications and to assessing competition effects more generally, see the ACCC's interim guidance on notification waivers and merger assessment guidelines.</p>
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Determination made by Commissioner Williams pursuant to a delegation under section 25(1) of the Act