



Notification Waiver Determination

Vets Central - Gawler Animal Hospital and Animalia Vet Clinic

Acquisition	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 assets of Gawler Animal Hospital and Animalia Vet Clinic 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	12 February 2026

Parties to the Acquisition	<p>The acquirer, Vets Central, is an Australian-owned veterinary group that owns and operates 78 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 targets, Gawler Animal Hospital and Animalia Vet Clinic, are jointly owned, full-service veterinary practices in the Gawler and Evanston areas of South Australia. Both businesses also provide a range of first opinion core and ancillary veterinary services for household pets and exotic pets in their respective local areas. The Gawler Animal Hospital also provides behaviour classes and complicated surgeries.</p> <p>Vets Central operates 7 veterinary practices in South Australia, the closest being over 30 km away from the targets.</p>
Explanation for determination	<p>In making this notification waiver determination, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (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) (Act).</p> <p>Based on the information provided in the application the ACCC considers that the Acquisition is unlikely to give rise to any material lessening of competition. In particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. There appears to be limited or no local geographic horizontal overlap between Vets Central and the Gawler Animal Hospital and Animalia Vet Clinic in the supply of veterinary services in the Gawler and Evanston areas of South Australia.

	<p>b. The parties' combined share of supply of veterinary services in South Australia and Australia is not high and there are alternative suppliers in the Gawler and Evanston areas of South Australia, broader South Australia and Australia.</p> <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 Philip Williams pursuant to a delegation under section 25(1) of the Act