



23 December 2022

Endeavour revises acquisition of four hotels in South Australia

The ACCC will not oppose the proposed acquisitions of the Beach Hotel and Tower Hotel by Endeavour Group Limited (ASX:EDV), after accepting a court-enforceable undertaking offered by Endeavour to divest its BWS Seaford bottle shop.

During the ACCC's review, Endeavour revised its acquisition proposal and offered to divest the BWS Seaford bottle shop, in order to expedite the ACCC's review.

Under the revised proposal, Endeavour has also withdrawn its proposal to acquire two other South Australian hotels: the Crown Inn in Old Reynella and the Whitehorse Inn in Bolivar.

Beach Hotel not opposed, subject to divesture

The Beach Hotel in Seaford includes a hotel and independent bottle shop operating under the Cellarbrations brand. Endeavour owns the nearby BWS bottle shop in Seaford Central.

"The BWS in Seaford Central and Beach Hotel's Cellarbrations, are the two largest bottle shops in the local area and are each other's closest competitors," ACCC Commissioner Stephen Ridgeway said.

"We were concerned that without the divestment undertaking, the proposed acquisition would be likely to substantially lessen competition in the supply of takeaway liquor in the local area."

To address the ACCC's concerns, Endeavour has provided a court-enforceable undertaking that commits it to divest the BWS Seaford store to a purchaser approved by the ACCC.

"This divestment will ensure that consumers in the local area around the Beach Hotel benefit from competition between large liquor stores with different promotions, range and service offerings," Mr Ridgeway said.

Tower Hotel not opposed

The Tower Hotel in Magill includes a hotel and independent bottle shop operating under the 'Cellarbrations' brand. Endeavour owns the Norwood Hotel, and a number of BWS and Dan Murphy's stores in the local area.

In relation to the supply of takeaway liquor in the local area around the Tower Hotel, the ACCC concluded that Endeavour would continue to be constrained by other bottle shops in the area post-acquisition.

"Consumers in the local area would continue to have access to Coles' Liquorland and Vintage Cellars stores, and other independently owned bottle shops, operating under a range of banners including SipnSave, Cellarbrations and Booze Brothers," Mr Ridgeway said.

The ACCC also considered the supply of on-premises services at the Tower Hotel and Norwood Hotel, but concluded that Endeavour would continue to face competition from a number of alternative liquor, food and gaming providers post-acquisition.

More information is available at: <u>Endeavour Group Limited - each of the Beach Hotel, Crown</u> Inn, Tower Hotel and Whitehorse Inn located in South Australia

Background

Endeavour is a major Australian alcoholic drinks retailer and hotel operator that operates a portfolio of brands including BWS, Dan Murphy's, Jimmy Brings, Shorty's Liquor and Langton's. Endeavour also manages over 330 licensed hotels across Australia, through its subsidiary, ALH Hotels.

The Beach Hotel, Tower Hotel, Crown Inn and Whitehorse Inn are owned by Independent Pub Group Holdings Pty Limited, which owns a number of hotels and retail liquor outlets in South Australia and Queensland.

The ACCC is continuing to assess Endeavour's proposed acquisition of the Beachfront Hotel in Rapid Creek, just North of Darwin. The ACCC outlined preliminary competition concerns with this proposed acquisition on 12 December 2022. The ACCC's final decision is currently scheduled for 9 March 2023. More information is available at: Endeavour Group Limited Beachfront Hotel.

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