Vets Central – Vital Vet Animal Hospital

MN-85042

Phase 1 Determination

Acquisition may be put into effect

26 October 2026

1. Determination and statement of reasons

Notified acquisition	VC Operations (WA) Pty Ltd (together with its associated entities, **Vets Central**) proposes to acquire 100% of the business assets (both tangible and intangible) of Vital Vet Animal Hospital (**Vital Vet**) from Kinsedo Pty Ltd as trustee for the Ellenvale Veterinary Trust (the **Acquisition**).
Determination	The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has determined under section 51ABZE(1) of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) that the Acquisition may be put into effect.
Parties to the Acquisition	The acquirer, Vets Central, is a veterinary group that owns and operates 88 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). The target, Vital Vet, is a full-service veterinary practice in Ellenbrook, Western Australia. The business provides a range of first opinion core and ancillary veterinary services for household pets (extending to exotic pets) in the local area. Vets Central owns the Swan Valley Vet Centre in West Swan, Western Australia, located approximately 9.8km driving distance away from Vital Vet. Vets Central also owns the Swan Valley Vet at Bullsbrook in Bullsbrook, Western Australia, located approximately 15.6km driving distance away from Vital Vet.
Overlap between the Parties	Vets Central and Vital Vet (together, the **Parties**) overlap in the supply of first opinion veterinary services, comprising routine, planned and emergency (excluding after-hours) services primarily for household pets but also for livestock and exotic animals (at certain practices) (**General Veterinary Services**), in north-eastern Perth.
Reasons for determination	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 *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (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. For more information about the ACCC's approach to considering notified acquisitions, see the ACCC's merger assessment guidelines and interim merger process guidelines. In conducting its competition assessment, the ACCC has considered the information and documents that were submitted with the notification form, information from third parties and publicly available information. The ACCC has determined that the Acquisition may be put into effect as it considers that the Acquisition would be unlikely to have the effect of substantially lessening competition in any market. In

	reaching its decision, and based on the material before it, the ACCC makes the following findings: • Vets Central would continue to face competition from multiple alternative General Veterinary Services practices in the local area surrounding Vital Vet. • Vets Central would continue to face competition from other large suppliers of General Veterinary Services at the state and national levels.
Applications for review	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.

Determination made by Commissioner Williams pursuant to a delegation under section 25(1) of the Act