

MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT M/26/016 – UNITED HARDWARE/EXPERT HARDWARE

Section 21 of the Competition Act 2002

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition whereby United Hardware Designated Activity Company, would acquire sole control of Calobra Limited (which trades as Expert Hardware).

24 April 2026

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby United Hardware Designated Activity Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary Ardentia Limited, would acquire the entire issued share capital, and thus sole control, of Calobra Limited (which trades as Expert Hardware). The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended, on 13 March 2026.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. The Commission will publish the reasons for its determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination and after allowing the notifying party the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

Additional Information

United Hardware Designated Activity Company is a co-operative building materials and DIY products buying group which comprises of independent builders' merchants, DIY, plumbing and home and garden retail stores. United Hardware Designated Activity Company also maintains the Homevalue brand on behalf of its members.

Calobra Limited is a co-operative building materials and DIY products buying group which caters for independently owned hardware and DIY stores. Calobra Limited maintains the Expert Hardware brand on behalf of its members.