

[Received by email]

Subject: Online Buying Inquiry

A few times a year I buy mainly Cycling things online. It is invariably because the items aren't available in Australia, particularly in Perth; or because the price in Australia is staggeringly high. As an example I need pedals that have plenty of rotational adjustment, and an American brand Speedplay are the most suitable. The USA website has a MSRP of US\$129, but even the Australian Importer recommends to its Australian outlets a price of more than twice that, the price has not come down a single cent with the increase in the A\$ -US\$ over several years. As with any goods anywhere in the world, if I shop around I can find someone who will discount, so in reality I can find a USA exporter selling for less, which ends up adding just a little to the MSRP with postage. If I can buy so cheaply, then the Australian importer must be buying very much lower. Hence, it seems to be much more about the greed of Australian business, which typically has a very small supply chain for such items!

I can buy one of the few Australian made bicycle parts, Velocity wheels, more cheaply online from overseas, than I can buy them in Perth, ie, half the price! Not that one needs to buy a wheel very often they should last many years.

Dick Smith sells the tiny 10 cent piece size battery CR2032 for about \$4.50 each. In the USA 20 of them cost US\$30, or from many e-bay suppliers just A\$6 for 10. This isn't a GST issue! It is about greed, or overly expensive retailing cost in Australia, eg, High street property retail.

On the weekly TV 6.30pm slot we are told regularly about Australian discount places for all sorts of things including electronics and whitegoods, these are effective, but really only for those on the eastern seaboard. Hence, I bought locally a new fridge recently from Rick Hart; likewise a TV from The Good Guys; electric tools from Bunnings, my computer, its printer Austin Computers, mobile from Optus; my wine from an Australian online store. I buy all my clothes locally.

I wish I could buy WA grown oranges and bananas at the Australian supermarkets, who prefer to sell either those sourced from over East or worse from California!

In Perth it is primarily availability. Secondly excessive price both Australian online and locally.

It isn't GST related!

Regards

Paul Loring