

*[Received by email email 17/5/11]*

Dear Sir/Madam

I have a retail business that sells skateboard, BMX and scooter equipment. I am writing to explain the position that most retailers within Australia find themselves. Our businesses viability is being threatened by the online retail industry. The real threat comes from overseas based websites that Australian retail customers are able to order from.

Because no GST is charged on orders from OS retail sites we are unable to compete. The discrepancy means that we are losing sales and the Australian Government is losing tax revenue. If this trend continues unabated then retail in Australia will be devastated costing thousands of jobs and destroying many businesses.

The revenue implications for the government are quite substantial. The government risks losing income tax whilst experiencing an increase in unemployment as well as the lost GST revenue. This will grow to a multi-billion dollar problem if action is not taken soon.

To remedy this situation GST should be charged on all retail purchases from overseas. This will mean that Australian retailers can compete more fairly with international competitors and the government will avoid losing revenue.

Please give this matter serious consideration for the sake of our industry, our jobs and our economy.

Regards,

Richard Hall