

[Received by email 31/5/11]

To whom this may concern,

I am emailing this commission to provide my view on the issue discussed by the ANRA as an Australian consumer, student, and retail employee and I am disgraced by the submission by the ANRA to force the government to apply protectionism upon the Australian retail sector due to its outdated business model.

Many people shop for their goods online as Australian retail attracts an exorbitant premium for inferior service and lackluster product selection. Why should the Australian consumers pay excessive increases to line the pockets of importers and retail businesses with the Australian dollar so high.

The exception of GST for items under \$1000 was put in place as it is logistically difficult to collect GST on items below that value and to call for a level playing field is a smokescreen to the retail sectors anti competitive attitude and practices as also highlighted by their wish to remove parallel import restrictions. They are more than happy to destroy the local manufacturing industry by importing cheaper goods but are unwilling to compete against cheaper imports of consumer.

As a retail employee it sickens me to see the disgusting practices by these large companies who wish to charge higher prices without using the advantage of a brick and mortar store to its advantage to provide service.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Charalambous