

I recently travelled around Australia with one of my suppliers and had opportunity to speak to a wide variety of my customers and my own overseas producer who is on one hand fighting an anti-dumping action having been brought against him (by Australian producers) whilst himself fighting dumping into his own market. (from China).

In the steel industry it certainly seems that trade protectionism via anti dumping actions is on the rise world wide. Everyone is doing it.

I do not have a problem with targeted anti-dumping actions against individual obvious sources. The obvious source in the steel industry is China. It has approx. 106 million tonnes of spare capacity trying to find a market outside its own borders.

My problem is where local manufacturers target the rest of the world or at least the rest of the relevant world. (where relevant is defined as any country close enough to realistically export to Australia) In these cases anti dumping action against "everyone" is tantamount to complaining that the common market price is too low and they want to somehow elevate the Australian market price to immunize it from the affliction which is simply lower world pricing. The case in point being the Onesteel AD case against Turkey, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Spain and China for steel reinforcing bar

What is ironic is that in steel anti dumping cases in the east of Australia, it is the big miners in the west of Australia (BHP/Rio Tinto) who are selling as much iron ore as they can who are providing the super low priced feed stock for the Chinese steel producers to produce and sell so cheaply. Unfortunately for this reason it seems to me that Australians can complain least about the excess Chinese steel being produced and flooding the world export markets because a big part of the value of this steel is Australian iron ore and coal.

In the iron ore world no one is suggesting that [redacted] should get government assistance to help compete with the lower cost mines of [redacted] and [redacted]. If for reasons of in-efficiency or high cost mining costs, mines like [redacted] cannot compete profitably then our political and economic system says they should not be propped up except by private enterprise, local or foreign.

Why is it any different for Arrium and Bluescope in a situation where they also don't like the relevant world market pricing levels. To impose AD duties against "the world" to help local inefficient manufacturers is simply a "leg up" which they should have no right to. It lessens the competitiveness of local steel based finished product manufacturing against finished product producers over-seas and also against alternate materials such as timber.

Regards
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