

# Review of Australia's General Tariff Arrangements



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**SUPPLEMENTARY TO:**

***SUBMISSION BY :***

**NORMAN G CLARK (A/ASIA) PTY LTD**

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**From:** Robbie Clark [robc@ngclark.com.au]  
**Sent:** 23 June 2000 17:57  
**To:** 'gtr@pc.gov.au'  
**Cc:** 'ministerial@treasury.gov.au'; 'Senator.Rod.Kemp@aph.gov.au'  
**Subject:** Review of Australia's General Tariff Arrangements

Attn: Herb Plunkett

Dear Sir,

We wish to take the opportunity as an Australian owner manufacturer to comment on the proposed changes to Australia's Tariff system.

We are a manufacturer of industrial power transmission components which we supply to Australian industry. A major customer is the Australian truck industry and we are concerned that there is not enough consideration being shown as to the effects of tariff reduction on this sector of the automotive manufacturing industry.

We strongly object to the proposed reduction, which we believe will give an unfair advantage to imports and seriously threaten local truck production. This advantage is being given without any reciprocal duty considerations being offered from the imported vehicles home country.

Whatever happened to the "level playing field"?

Reciprocal arrangements would give local manufacturers an opportunity to compete offshore on an equal basis as well as within Australia.

The Australian car manufacturers have been offered special tariff considerations. Why should this offer not be extended to the truck manufacturers who also are part of the automotive industry.

The draft report seems unconcerned with the employment considerations of a tariff change, however has any thought been given to the strategic implications of weakening the local truck production capacity.

As an eighty-one year old Australian company we feel unfair and discriminatory tariff reductions could have serious long-term implications on our viability. We have a need to operate in a fair market environment which allows us to compete on equal terms both in Australia and overseas.

In summary, firstly we believe that a tariff reduction is not justified since it will threaten the long term viability of Australian industry. Secondly, let us compete for export business on an equal basis by basing tariff reductions to a reciprocal arrangement with each of our trading partners.

Rob Clark

Submission from : Norman G Clark (A/Asia) Pty Ltd

Contact : Rob Clark

Position : Managing Director

Postal Address : P. O. Box 5044, Heidelberg West D.C., Victoria, 3081.

Phone : 03 94575833

Fax : 03 94575781