

61 2 9556 2976

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Firstly we apologise for the lateness of this submission and appreciate your preparedness to accept it now.

Thomas & Betts Pty Limited are a leading global manufacturer and supplier of parts, components, tools and accessories to the electrical & electronic industry and wish to make the following brief but important points for consideration by the Commission in framing a final report for the Government's ultimate consideration.

- Thomas & Betts are supporters of zero tariffs and no doubt the Government will adopt a view one way or the other in this respect. Should zero tariffs be adopted, then the following points become irrelevant. However, they are submitted for your earnest consideration in the event that zero tariffs are not adopted.
- Many of the goods imported by Thomas & Betts are leading edge technology, resulting from significant research and development. These goods are supplied to industry generally, with particular emphasis on the computer and related high tech industries.
- Many of the goods imported by Thomas & Betts currently benefit from concessional treatment upon importation by virtue of the Tariff Concession Order [TCO] system.
- Many of the goods imported by Thomas & Betts are supplied to companies involved in highly competitive export markets, which makes the benefits delivered through the TCO system of significant importance to those companies, as well as to Australia's push for competitive exports in the global marketplace.
- There have been continual changes in Australia's local manufacturing capability, over the years. The flexibility available through the TCO system in providing a facility to quickly remove the unnecessary costs of protection, particularly in respect of leading edge technologically advanced products, is a major benefit to industry and must be allowed to continue.
- Thomas & Betts unequivocally support retention of the TCO system, which justifiably enables the concessional entry of goods, where it is demonstrated that no substitutable goods are manufactured locally.
- In addition to advocating retention of the TCO system, Thomas & Betts strongly urge the Commission to strenuously recommend to the Government that the existing 3% 'revenue' levy applying to business inputs, is counter productive to the national interest and is incapable of being justifiably retained. Accordingly, it should immediately be scrapped and replaced with a totally 'duty free' regime so that ALL goods determined to be eligible for concessional entry under the TCO system are rightfully admitted on a duty free basis.

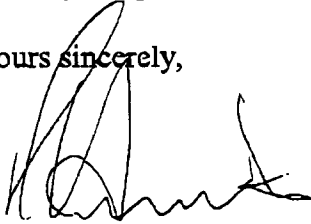
Thomas & Betts Pty Limited

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Thank you again for your understanding in relation to the timing of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip C Hudson', written over the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Phillip C Hudson fcbca; jp.

Thomas & Betts Pty Limited