

From: AD Coote
Sent: Wednesday, 11 July 2012 10:45 AM
To: International Trade Remedies Ops 1
Subject:

Re your proposed dumping duty for HRC dated 14/06/12.

It has come to my attention that the customs department is intent on posting tariffs on imported hot rolled coil from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia. As a steel manufacturing business based in Western Australia that manufactures Lighting Columns for the local and interstate market we oppose this proposal for the following reasons.

1. We are the last major manufacturer of lighting columns left in Western Australia as an increasing number of lighting column manufacturers are using imported product. In fact our only major competitor in W.A. for manufactured columns was forced to cease operation due to the ongoing threat of imported columns. Up until this point we have been able to compete against these imports and can not take any further imposed government costs.
2. With the on set of carbon pricing our costs would increase thus making us less competitive.
3. Most importantly, the quality of Hot rolled coil provided by Bluescope is of not the same quality as imported product. This is the fault of Bluescope and we should not be asked to pay for it. We used Blue Scope coil for many years and reached a point where we had to return many due to quality problems. We have not had to return one of the imported coils due to quality. We can not go back to using inferior product from the only local manufacturer
4. We see an ongoing effort by the Government and its departments to cripple manufacturing in this country and are told to adapt to a global economy yet we are being further crippled by government decisions that impose even greater costs against us.

We do import some lighting columns ourselves so that we can remain competitive but if these tariffs are put in place we will need to look at imported product to keep us in business and will possibly be forced to lay off staff to keep ahead. I can't believe that you would let pressure from one company reflect in a way that will cripple what is left of Australia's metal manufacturing industry. Steel fabricators in this country already have to compete on a world market and against countries that don't have protective measures in place so we don't need more crippling costs imposed.

If this goes ahead I believe we will see many more manufacturers go under.

I await some sort of response

Regards Mick Eidam

Product Manager

A.D.Coote & Co.