



PUBLIC FILE COPY

Application for the publication of  
dumping and/or  
countervailing duty notices

Interchangeable bolted clipping  
system brackets  
exported from  
The People's Republic of China



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**APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 269TB OF THE *CUSTOMS ACT 1901* FOR THE PUBLICATION OF DUMPING AND/OR COUNTERVAILING DUTY NOTICES**

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**DECLARATION**

I request, in accordance with section 269TB of the *Customs Act 1901* (the Act), that the Minister publish in respect of goods the subject of this application:

- a dumping duty notice, or
- a countervailing duty notice, or
- a dumping and a countervailing duty notice.

This application is made on behalf of the Australian industry producing like goods to the imported goods the subject of this application. The application is supported by Australian producers whose collective output comprises:

- 25% or more of the total Australian production of the like goods; and
- more than 50% of the total production of like goods by those Australian producers that have expressed either support for, or opposition to, this application.

I believe that the information contained in this application:

- provides reasonable grounds for the publication of the notice(s) requested; and
- is complete and correct.

*Please note that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.*

Signature: 

Name: Mr Geoff Anderson

Position: Managing Director

Company: Abey Australia Pty Ltd

ABN: 34 004 589 879

Date: 25 March 2024

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Signature requirements

Where the application is made:

*By a company* - the application must be signed by a director, servant or agent acting with the authority of the body corporate.

*By a joint venture* - a director, employee, agent of each joint venturer must sign the application. Where a joint venturer is not a company, the principal of that joint venturer must sign the application form.

*On behalf of a trust* - a trustee of the trust must sign the application.

*By a sole trader* - the sole trader must sign the application.

*In any other case* - contact the Commission's Client support section for advice.

### Assistance with the application

The Anti-Dumping Commission has published guidelines to assist applicants with the completion of this application. Please refer to the following guidelines for additional information on completing this application:

- *Instructions and Guidelines for applicants on the application for the publication of dumping and/or countervailing duty notices*
- *Instructions and Guidelines for applicants on the examination of a formally lodged application*

The Commission's client support section can provide information about dumping and countervailing procedures and the information required by the application form. Contact the team on:

**Phone:** 13 28 46

**Email:** [clientsupport@adcommission.gov.au](mailto:clientsupport@adcommission.gov.au)

Information is available from the Commission's website at [www.adcommission.gov.au](http://www.adcommission.gov.au).

Small and medium enterprises (i.e., those with less than 200 full-time staff, which are independently operated and which are not a related body corporate for the purposes of the *Corporations Act 2001*), may obtain assistance, at no charge, from the International Trade Remedies Advisory (ITRA) Service. For more information on the ITRA Service, visit [www.business.gov.au](http://www.business.gov.au) or telephone the ITRA Service Hotline on +61 2 6213 7267.

### Important information

To initiate an investigation into dumping and/or subsidisation, the Commission must comply with Australia's international obligations and statutory standards. This form provides an applicant industry with a framework to present its case and will be used by the Commission to establish whether there appear to be reasonable grounds for the publication of a dumping duty or countervailing duty notice and initiate an investigation. To assist consideration of the application it is therefore important that:

- all relevant questions are answered; and

- information that is reasonably available be supplied.

The Commission does not require conclusive evidence to initiate an investigation, but any claims made should be reasonably based. An application will be improved by including supporting evidence and where the sources of evidence are identified. Simple assertion is inadequate to substantiate an application.

To facilitate compilation and analysis, the application form is structured in 3 parts:

1. **Part A** seeks information about the Australian industry. This data is used to evaluate industry trends and assess claims of material injury due to dumping/subsidisation. Where an Australian industry comprises more than one company, each should separately prepare a response to Part A to protect commercial confidentiality.
2. **Part B** relates to evidence of dumping.
3. **Part C** is for supplementary information that may not be appropriate to all applications. However some questions in Part C may be essential for an application, for example, if action is sought against subsidisation.

All questions in Parts A and B must be answered, even if the answer is 'Not applicable' or 'None'. Where appropriate, applicants should provide a short explanation about why the requested data is not applicable. This will avoid the need for follow up questions by the Commission.

The application form does not specifically address all the information required when making a claim that the establishment of an Australian industry producing like goods has been or may be materially hindered. If you are considering making such a claim, please contact the Commission to discuss information requirements.

The application form requests data over several periods ( $P^1, P^2, \dots, P^n$ ) to evaluate industry trends and to correlate injury with dumped or subsidised imports. The labels  $P^1 \dots P^n$  are used for convenience in this application form. Lodged applications should identify the period relevant to the data. This form does not specify a minimum period for data provision. However, sufficient data must be provided to substantiate the claims made. If yearly data is provided, this would typically comprise a period of at least four years (for example the current financial year in addition to three prior years). Where information is supplied for a shorter period, applicants may consider the use of quarterly data. Data must also be sufficiently recent to demonstrate that the claims made are current.

When an investigation is initiated, the Commission will verify the claims made in the application. A verification visit to the Australian industry usually takes several days.

Applicants should be prepared to substantiate all Australian industry financial and commercial information submitted in the application. Any worksheets used in preparing the application should therefore be retained to facilitate verification.

During verification, the Commission will examine company records and obtain copies of documents relating to the manufacture and sale of the goods.

<b>Appendices</b>	Some questions require attachments to be provided. The attachment numbering sequence should refer to the question answered. For example, question A2.2 requests a copy of an organisation chart. To facilitate reference, the chart should be labelled <u>Attachment A2.2</u> . If a second organisation chart is provided in response to the same question, it should be labelled <u>Attachment A2.2.2</u> (the first would be labelled <u>Attachment A2.2.1</u> ).
<b>Provision of data</b>	Industry financial data must, wherever possible, be submitted in an electronic format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The data should be submitted on a media format compatible with Microsoft Windows.</li><li>• Microsoft Excel, or an Excel compatible format, is required.</li><li>• If the data cannot be presented electronically please contact the Commission’s client support section for advice.</li></ul>
<b>Lodgement of the application</b>	This application, together with the supporting evidence, must be lodged in the manner approved by the Commissioner under subsection 269SMS(2) of the Act. The Commissioner has approved lodgement of this application by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• preferably, email, using the email address <a href="mailto:clientsupport@adcommission.gov.au">clientsupport@adcommission.gov.au</a>, or</li><li>• post to: The Commissioner of the Anti-Dumping Commission GPO Box 2013 Canberra ACT 2601, or</li><li>• facsimile, using the number (03) 8539 2499.</li></ul>
<b>Public Record</b>	During an investigation all interested parties are given the opportunity to defend their interests by making a submission. The Commission maintains a public record of these submissions. The public record is available on the Commission’s website at <a href="http://www.adcommission.gov.au">www.adcommission.gov.au</a> .  At the time of making the application both a confidential version (for official use only) and non-confidential version (public record) of the application <u>must</u> be submitted. Please ensure each page of the application is clearly marked “FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY” or “PUBLIC RECORD”. The non-confidential application should enable a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information submitted in confidence, clearly showing the reasons for seeking the publication of a dumping duty or countervailing duty notice, or, if those reasons cannot be summarised, a statement of reasons why a summary is not possible.

# **PART A**

## **INJURY**

### **TO AN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY**

**IMPORTANT**

All questions in Part A should be answered even if the answer is 'Not applicable' or 'None'. If an Australian industry comprises more than one company/entity, each should separately complete Part A.

**A-1 Identity and communication**

Please nominate a person in your company for contact about the application:

Contact Name:	Geoff Anderson
Company and position:	Managing Director, Abey Australia Pty Ltd
Address:	57 – 81 Abey Road, Melton, Victoria, 3337
Telephone:	+61 3 9747 7718
Facsimile:	+61 3 9747 7700
E-mail address:	geoff_anderson@abey.com.au
ABN:	34 004 589 879

**Alternative contact**

Name:	Trent Anderson
Position in company:	National Sales Director – Abey Australia Pty Ltd
Address:	57 – 81 Abey Road, Melton, Victoria, 3337
Telephone:	+61 3 9747 7723
Facsimile:	
E-mail address:	Trent_anderson@abey.com.au

If you have appointed a representative to assist with your application, provide the following details and complete Appendix A8 (Representation).

Name:	John O'Connor
Business name:	John O'Connor & Associates
Address:	P.O. Box 329, COORPAROO, QLD, 4151
Telephone:	+61 7 3342 1921
Facsimile:	+61 7 3342 1931
E-mail address:	Jmoconnor.assoc@gmail.com
ABN:	39 098 650 241

## A-2 Company information

1. **State the legal name of your business and its type (e.g. company, partnership, sole trader, joint venture). Please provide details of any other business names you use to manufacture/produce/sell the goods that are the subject of your application.**

Abey Australia Pty Ltd (“Abey Australia” or “Abey”) is a private company that began as a manufacturer in the 1950s. In 1956 Abey Australia commenced manufacturing safety belt components for passenger vehicles for the automotive industry. At this time, Abey Australia also began manufacturing masonry, plumbing and timber connectors. The goods the subject of this application are interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, galvanised, including hanging brackets, stand-off brackets, adjustable stand-off brackets, all-thread brackets and welded nut brackets.

Abey Australia trades under the “ABEY” for the goods the subject of this application.

2. **Provide your company’s internal organisation chart. Describe the functions performed by each group within the organisation.**

Abey Australia has included a copy of its internal organisation chart at Confidential Attachment A-2.2.

3. **List the major shareholders of your company. Provide the shareholding percentages for joint owners and/or major shareholders.**

Abey Australia Pty Ltd is owned by [Owner name] (53 per cent) and [Owner name] (47 per cent).

4. **If your company is a subsidiary of another company list the major shareholders of that company.**

Abey Australia is not a subsidiary of another company.

5. **If your parent company is a subsidiary of another company, list the major shareholders of that company.**

Abey Australia does not have a parent company.

6. **Provide an outline diagram showing major associated or affiliated companies and your company’s place within that structure (include the ABNs of each company).**

Abey Australia does not have any associated companies.

7. **Are any management fees/corporate allocations charged to your company by your parent or related company?**

Abey Australia does not have any management fees or allocations charged to it.

8. **Identify and provide details of any relationship you have with an exporter to Australia or Australian importer of the goods.**

Abey Australia does not have a relationship with any of the exporters and/or importers of the goods the subject of this application that are exported from China.



- 9. Provide a copy of all annual reports applicable to the data supplied in appendix A3 (Sales Turnover). Any relevant brochures or pamphlets on your business activities should also be supplied.**

Abey Australia has included a copy of its 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports at Confidential Attachment A-2.9 (i) and (ii).

- 10. Provide details of any relevant industry association.**

Abey Australia is a member of the Australian Industry Group ("AIG").

## A-3 The imported and locally produced goods

### 1. Fully describe the imported product(s) the subject of your application:

- Include physical, technical or other properties.
- Where the application covers a range of products, list this information for each make and model in the range.
- Supply technical documentation where appropriate.

#### (a) The Goods

The goods the subject of this application are:

*“Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, whether or not galvanized, whether or not including nut and bolt, including the following brackets:*

- *light hanging bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut ;*
- *stand-off bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut;*
- *adjustable stand-off bracket with elongated slot for interlocking coach bolt and nut;*
- *all-thread bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut; and*
- *welded nut bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut.”*

#### (b) Supporting physical appearance information

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets (hereafter also referred to as “steel brackets”) are manufactured from galvanized hot rolled coil (“HRC”).

The grade of galvanized HRC is Z275 grade and is of varying thicknesses of 1mm to 4 mm, dependent upon model of steel bracket.

#### (c) Additional information

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are spaced intermittently to hold horizontal and vertical piping in place in plumbing applications<sup>1</sup>.

A video of Abey Australia’s interchangeable bolted clipping system incorporating the subject steel brackets is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7lbs6UCVps&t=129s>

Abey Australia designed, produced and commercialised the unique steel interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets and bolted clip-heads for use in piping systems in 1976 for the Australian market. The interchangeable bolted clipping system comprises brackets and bolted clip heads (not sold as a system, but separately). Saddle clips are also manufactured by Abey Australia for use in adhering piping systems to replace the then bulky and cumbersome steel clips used for heavier galvanized water pipes. Abey Australia is the only Australian manufacturer of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets and clip-heads.

Abey Australia’s steel brackets, bolted clip heads and saddles were copied by Chinese manufacturers and have been produced in bulk (often with the same MCC No in order to be identifiable with Abey Australia’s products) and exported to Australia.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Standard AS 3500 requires a minimum spacing and frequency of distance between fastening points.

Specifically, this application includes, *inter alia*, the following steel bracket models:

Table 1 – Subject goods – interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets

Model	Model No.	Thickness mm	Size
Light Hanging brackets	0059	1.5	300mm
Stand-Off brackets	0060	2	Standard
Adjustable Stand Off brackets	0080	2	Standard
All-Thread brackets	0061M	4	Includes 2 nuts (approx. 10mm in each box)
Welded Nut bracket 10mm	0063	4	Includes steel nut

Abey Australia highlights that the sales of models 0059, 0060, 0080, 0061M and 0063 account for more than xx per cent of total sales of steel brackets by the company. These five models are the key models for which financial data has been separately prepared for this application for anti-dumping measures. The remaining steel bracket models produced and sold by Abey Australia therefore accounted for less than 5 per cent of the total volumes of sales brackets sold by Abey Australia.

Copies of illustrative descriptive material (including picture) is included at Non-Confidential Attachment A-3.1.

**2. List the tariff classification(s) and statistical code(s) of the imported goods.**

Abey Australia has obtained advice in respect of the tariff classifications of the interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets the subject of the application. With the exception of the Welded Nut bracket (MCC 0063), and the All-Thread Brackets (MCCs 0061M), all steel brackets as identified by MCC are classified to sub-heading 7326.90.90 statistical code 60.

In respect of the Welded Nut Bracket (MCC 0063) and the Stand-Off brackets (MCC 0061M and 5061), the tariff classification is 7318.15.00.

**3. Fully describe your product(s) that are ‘like’ to the imported product:**

- **Include physical, technical or other properties.**
- **Where the application covers a range of products, list this information for each make and model in the range.**
- **Supply technical documentation where appropriate.**
- **Indicate which of your product types or models are comparable to each of the imported product types or models. If appropriate, the comparison can be done in a table.**

Abey Australia manufactures interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets (“the goods”) that are “alike” to imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets.

The locally produced goods look the same (i.e. identical) and perform the same functions as the imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. The locally produced goods are similar including same length (where applicable) and dimensions such that the locally produced goods and imported goods cannot be differentiated on sight.

The locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets and imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets can be used interchangeably in horizontal or vertical piping applications.

The steel brackets manufactured by Abey Australia the subject of this application are detailed in Table 1 at A-3.1 above.

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are manufactured from galvanised hot rolled coil. Only certain models of the galvanised steel brackets are subsequently powder coated by Abey Australia on a dedicated powder coating line.

Abey Australia does not have a product specification sheet for the interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets manufactured by the company. An extract of "The Abey Plumber's Guide" detailing each of the above products is included at Non-Confidential Attachment A-3.3 – refer Page 9.

**4. Describe the ways in which the essential characteristics of the imported goods are like to the goods produced by the Australian industry.**

The imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets have the same essential characteristics as the locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in the following respects:

- The primary physical characteristics of the imported goods and locally produced goods are similar (i.e. identical in nature);
- The goods and locally produced goods are commercially alike as they are sold to common users, and directly compete in the plumbing accessories market;
- The goods and locally produced goods are functionally alike as they have a similar range of end-uses in pipe plumbing applications; and
- The goods and locally produced goods are manufactured in a similar manner.

Abey Australia considers the locally produced steel brackets and imported steel brackets are alike in all respects as the locally produced goods possess the same essential characteristics as imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China. The imported goods and the Australian goods are identical in every physical manner and cannot be distinguished by viewing, and are wholly interchangeable. The imported goods are considered "alike" to the locally produced goods manufactured by Abey Australia in all respects.

**5. What is the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification Code (ANZSIC) applicable to your product.**

The steel brackets are covered by the ANZSIC Class 2110 Iron Smelting and Steel Manufacturing category which is classified as follows:

Division C	Manufacturing
Subdivision 21	Primary Metal and Metal Product Manufacturing
Group 211	Basic Ferrous Metal Manufacturing
Class 2110	Iron Smelting and Steel Manufacturing

**6. Provide a summary and a diagram of your production process.**

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets manufactured by Abey Australia Pty Ltd ("Abey") are produced from galvanised hot rolled coil ("HRC") that is purchased from a third party by Abey Australia and substantially transformed into the steel brackets used by plumbers in residential and industrial applications.

Manufacturing Process

The process of manufacturing the steel brackets is explained in the following five stages.

### Stage 1 - Planning and Procurement

Upon receiving orders from customers and for stocking, Abey Australia analyses the requirement for raw materials and sends purchase orders to procure including like the steel coils (i.e. galvanised or stainless steel) and packaging materials from local suppliers.

For each steel bracket manufactured by Abey Australia, the raw material steel coil has a specific cut width. For this, Abey Australia procures bulk coils and slit multiple widths as per the production needs, from this bulk coil. Based on the orders received by Abey Australia, it is important to collate various sizes of coil widths to create a slitting pattern, for those widths to be cut out of the wide bulk coil. Once a defined pattern is ready, the bulk coil and the slitting pattern is forwarded to a local slitting machine supplier. There the coils are slit to the appropriate tolerances. Once the steel coils are slit to size, Abey Australia receives them from the local suppliers into Abey Australia's Manufacturing centre.

### Stage 2 - Preparation for Production

Abey Australia ensures that its high precision Press Tools that are used to stamp parts, are serviced and ready to perform a production run, in order to fulfil the orders on hand. During this stage, the toolmakers check all aspects of tooling, making sure they replace damaged parts with spares that are machined to suit the requirements. Manufacturing new tooling and maintaining existing press tools involves the use of sophisticated state-of-the-art machineries like the Wire Electrical Discharge ("EDM"), the CNC Milling machine and all other conventional engineering related machines.

During this stage Abey Australia further ensures that the production presses are meticulously scheduled to undertake the production run as planned - otherwise the process becomes a bottleneck, resulting in possible time delays and production outages.

### Stage 3 - Production

This is the stage where the actual production process takes place. Abey Australia creates manufacturing orders and ensures that all items are available for the run. Abey Australia sets up the service press tool, aligns the steel coils, programs the press parameters and produces the steel bracket components. During production, the slit steel coil gets fed through the press with the help of a sophisticated pneumatic feeder that has been programmed to maintain the pitch of feed required, in conjunction with the stroke of the press. The steel coil is fed through the highly precise press tool that has multiple stages of progression which help transform the slit raw steel coil to the desired finished product (i.e. the steel brackets). For 'welded nut brackets' the nut is pressed and swaged into the bracket, for added strength and performance.

The steel brackets are either packed into carton boxes or collected for post-production operations. The whole production process involves the use of presses and related equipment that are completely automated through the use of sensors, Programmable Logic Controllers ("PLCs"), other logic based devices and algorithms. The press stops at regular counts for periodic inspection to be performed. This is done for Quality Assurance purposes.

### Stage 4 - Post-Production

Based on the product type (i.e. whether further working such as powder coating is required), it may be necessary that Abey Australia powder coats the metal components as a secondary operation. Abey Australia performs electrostatic powder coating, where the work-in-progress components pass through a series of operations including washing, phosphating, rinsing, oven drying, spraying powder and oven curing. Abey Australia has a state-of-the-art through a powder coating facility that is unique and one of its kind in the

world, with highly advanced technology and automation implemented into the production line. The whole system is ultra-modern and futuristic, with some elements patented. Once produced, the coated parts are packed after quality check.

#### Stage 5 – Packaging

At any given stage in production or post-production, when components are deemed to be complete, the goods are packed into carton boxes with appropriate labelling (which at times is based on the customer's requirements).

#### Conclusion

The foregoing detailed production process undertaken by Abey Australia represents a substantial process of manufacture that transform raw material steel coils into steel brackets used by plumbers in horizontal and/or vertical pipe applications.

**7. If your product is manufactured from both Australian and imported inputs:**

- describe the use of the imported inputs; and
- identify that at least one substantial process of manufacture occurs in Australia (for example by reference to the value added, complexity of process, or investment in capital).

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets manufactured by Abey Australia are produced using galvanised hot rolled coil sourced from local suppliers (including traders). The local suppliers source galvanised hot rolled coil from overseas and locally suppliers.

Abey Australia's manufacturing process substantially transforms slit steel galvanised coil into elaborately produced steel brackets that are used in plumbing applications. The manufacturing process involved in the transformation process involves capital equipment (i.e. press tools and pneumatic equipment) that involves a manufacturing process that is unique and involves a high capital cost (approx. \$xx-xxM).

**8. If your product is a processed agricultural good, you may need to complete Part C-3 (close processed agricultural goods).**

The goods the subject of this application are not close processed agricultural goods.

**9. Supply a list of the names and contact details of all other Australian producers of the product.**

Abey Australia understands that it is the sole Australian manufacturer of the goods the subject of this application.

**10. If different models can be established for the goods subject to the application:**

- **What are the differences in physical characteristics that give rise to distinguishable and material differences in price?**

The differences in physical dimensions that give rise to distinguishable and material differences in price are the model of the galvanised steel bracket, with certain models including one or two nuts and screws.

- **Provide supporting documentation or analysis supporting the differences in physical characteristics that affects price comparability. Unit costs may also be used to demonstrate differences in physical characteristics where it affects price**

**comparability.**

Abey Australia has demonstrated that the different models of steel brackets have differing dimensions and appear physically different. Refer to pictorial information at Non-Confidential Attachment A-3.3 that identify the different types of steel brackets included in this application.

- **In providing the list of physical differences, identify the characteristics in order of significance.**

The physical differences in order of significance include model of steel bracket, where end-use determines type of steel bracket.

- **Identify key characteristics where the physical differences are significantly different and it is not meaningful to compare models with different physical characteristics.**

The key characteristics of the goods are model and dimensions as per end-use. It is not meaningful to compare brackets of different models and dimensions.

- **Identify the physical characteristics that can be reported in relation to sales and cost data respectively. This should be reflected in the sales data provided in appendices A4 and A6.**

The light hanging brackets, stand-off brackets, adjustable stand-off brackets, all-thread brackets and welded nut brackets are distinguishable by physical appearance and by model number, and by finish (i.e. galvanised).

- **Complete the table below having regard to the information provided above. The Commission will consider this information in establishing a model control code structure for the investigation.**

Abey Australia considers that each steel bracket manufactured by the company is unique and that the Table below best summarizes the interchangeable bolted clipping system steel brackets produced by Abey Australia that compete directly with imported interchangeable clipping system steel brackets.

**Table A-3.10 – Brackets manufactured by Abey Australia**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Model (MCC)</b>	<b>Sub-category</b>	<b>Sales Data</b>	<b>Cost data</b>	<b>Key Category</b>
Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets	0059	Light hanging brackets (300mm) - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0060	Stand-Off brackets - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0080	Adjustable Stand-Off brackets - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0061M	All-Thread brackets - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0063	Welded Nut Bracket 10mm - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes

## A-4 The Australian market

### 1. Describe the end uses of both your product and the imported goods.

The locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets and imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are used in horizontal and vertical plumbing pipe applications to assist in securing vertical and horizontal piping to surfaces.

### 2. Describe the Australian market for the Australian and imported product and the conditions of competition within the overall market. Your description could include information about:

- **sources of product demand;**

The market for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets used in plumbing applications is driven by new housing, apartment and commercial building demand. Prior to 2022 and 2023, demand for the subject goods has been buoyant.

- **marketing and distribution arrangements;**

The channels to market for the locally produced goods and imported goods includes:

- distributors/merchants that on-sell to resellers;
- resellers that direct to end-users (i.e. plumbers); and
- hardware stores.

- **typical customers/users/consumers of the product;**

The typical end-use customers or consumers of the subject goods are plumbers.

- **the presence of market segmentation, such as geographic or product segmentation;**

The main distinct segmentation exists between residential and commercial applications. However, the goods are the same in both market segments. There is no geographical segmentation for the subject goods.

- **causes of demand variability, such as seasonal fluctuations, factors contributing to overall market growth or decline, government regulation, and developments in technology affecting either demand or production;**

Demand variability is influenced by housing starts and building construction (residential and commercial).

- **the way in which the imported and Australian product compete; and**

The locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets and the imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are wholly interchangeable in horizontal and vertical pipe applications. In most instances it is not possible to distinguish between a locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system bracket and an imported interchangeable bolted clipping system bracket as they are identical in end-use applications.

- **any other factors influencing the market.**

The cost of the raw material galvanised hot rolled coil is an import influencing factor impacting both locally produced and imported goods. As the manufacturers in China benefit from artificially low-priced hot rolled coil due to the government of China's policies impacting the Chinese steel sector, imported interchangeable bolted clipping system



brackets sell at a large discount to the locally produced goods

**3. Identify if there are any commercially significant market substitutes for the Australian and imported product.**

There are no commercially significant market substitutes for the subject goods.

**4. Complete appendix A1 (Australian production). This data is used to support your declaration at the beginning of this application.**

Abey Australia has completed Confidential Appendix A1 (Australian Production) for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets produced in Australia over the twelve months 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

**5. Complete appendix A2 (Australian market).**

Confidential Appendix A2 (Australian market) has been completed by Abey Australia based upon its knowledge of its sales into the Australian market for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets.

Historically (circa 2012 to 2014) Abey Australia supplied almost 100 per cent of the Australian market for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. Brackets supplied included galvanised and stainless steel models. In 2014/15, Abey Australia observed imports of brackets and clip-heads from China being supplied by certain Abey Australia customers. The imported brackets and clip-heads were supplied with the name of the customer in Australia pressed into the bracket (as is Abey Australia’s models). Abey Australia commenced losing sales volumes at Tradelink with other customers shifting to a “shared” sourcing arrangement.

Abey Australia’s sales volumes of brackets continued to increase until 2018 (at reduced rates to growth in the market) before deteriorating by approx. 8 per cent over the following two years (when the market demand increased). During covid, Abey Australia’s sales improved, before deteriorating demonstrably in 2022 and 2023. Market share across these two years has slipped by approx.. 20 per cent.

ABS import data is not separately identifiable for the subject goods due to the classification of the goods being a “Other” category (i.e. that includes a broad range of goods that are not similar to the subject goods).

Abey Australia has relied upon its market intelligence received from customer feedback as to the approximate size of the Australian market.

**6. Use the data from appendix A2 (Australian market) to complete this table:**

*Indexed table of sales quantities\**

Period	(a) Your Sales	(b) Other Aust <sup>n</sup> Sales	(c) Total Aust <sup>n</sup> Sales (a+b)	(d) Dumped Imports	(e) Other Imports	(f) Total Imports (d+e)	Total Market (c+f)
<b>2020</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>2021</b>	94.66	100	94.66	71.0	100	71.0	88.74
<b>2022</b>	89.12	100	89.12	143.96	100	143.96	102.83
<b>2023</b>	89.63	100	89.66	194.72	100	194.72	115.90

Notes:

1. Data from Confidential Appendix A2;

## 2. Years ending 31 December.

The Australian market for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets has experienced growth since 2012. Abey Australia's sales increased between 2013 and 2018, declined in 2019 and 2020, and improved in 2021 (due to shortages in supply of Chinese imports of the goods).

Abey Australia received feedback from key customers in the NSW and Victorian markets that imports of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets had slipped in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Abey Australia's sales volumes increased in 2021 and then post pandemic as imports recovered – with Abey Australia's market share declining to approx xxx per cent of the market in 2022. In an expanding market during 2023, Abey Australia held sales volumes at loyal customers as price-sensitive customers switched supply to the growing import volumes (and Abey Australia's market share declined further in 2023).

In 2022, Abey Australia's sales for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets were down 19.0 per cent on the sales volumes achieved in 2021 and had fallen to a level not seen since 2014. The following Table A-4.2 highlights Abey Australia's sales volumes for the subject goods on a financial year basis (year ending June).

**Table A-4.2 Abey Australia sales volumes – brackets 2012 to 2023**

Year	Volume (units)	% change
2012	xxxxxxx	
2013	xxxxxxx	-7.9%
2014	xxxxxxx	+16.7%
2015	xxxxxxx	+7.1%
2016	xxxxxxx	-0.7%
2017	xxxxxxx	+9.0%
2018	xxxxxxx	+4.3%
2019	xxxxxxx	-5.9%
2020	xxxxxxx	-2.0%
2021	xxxxxxx	+9.1%
2022	xxxxxxx	-19.0%
2023	xxxxxxx	-0.6%

Notes: Sales based upon Abey Australia's financial year.

Table A-4.2 confirms that Abey Australia's sales volumes of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in 2021 were not extraordinary as a similar sales volume was achieved in 2018. Abey Australia's single largest decline in sales volumes has occurred in the 2022 year.

## A-5 Applicant's sales

### 1. Complete appendix A3 (sales turnover).

Abey Australia has completed Confidential Appendix A3 for the goods the subject of this application. Please note, Abey Australia has not completed "Quantity – All Products" as the company sells a broad range of items (e.g. building ties, steel strapping, kitchen and bathroom sinks, plumbing supplies) where quantities are not comparable across the range.

### 2. Use the data from appendix A3 (sales turnover) to complete these tables.

*Indexed table of Applicant's quantities values\**

Quantity	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>All Products</b>				
Aust. Market	100			
Export Market	100			
Total	100			
<b>Like Goods</b>				
Aust. Market	100	94.66	89.12	89.63
Export Market	100	471.4	985.7	385.7
Total	100	94.7	89.21	89.66

Notes: 1. For years ending 31 December.

Abey Australia sells a broad range of bathroom accessories as well as the sale of the subject locally manufactured goods. The volumes of the two different categories (i.e. bathroom accessories versus steel brackets) are not comparable and therefore quantities have not been included for "All Products". Abey Australia's export sales of the subject goods are minor.

*Indexed table of Applicant's sales values\**

Revenues	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>All Products</b>				
Aust. Market	100	94.92	105.46	96.48
Export Market	100	159.04	184.7	138.62
Total	100	95.02	105.58	96.54
<b>Like Goods</b>				
Aust. Market	100	98.08	108.84	110.32
Export Market	100	574.2	1420.3	535.0
Total	100	98.14	109.01	110.37

Notes: 1. For years ending 31 December.

Abey Australia has experienced a deterioration in its sales volumes for the like goods since 2021, to be at levels below 2020.

### 3. Complete appendix A5 (sales of other production) if you have made any:

- internal transfers; or
- domestic sales of like goods that you have not produced, for example if you have imported the product or on-sold purchases from another Australian manufacturer.

Abey Australia does not make any internal transfers, nor has it purchased goods from another domestic supplier that were manufactured or imported into Australia.

**4. Complete appendix A4 (domestic sales).**

Abey Australia has completed Confidential Appendix A4 for all sales of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets sold by the company domestically.

Confidential Appendix A4 depicts all domestic sales at gross invoice value (Column L) and Net Invoice Value (net of discounts) (Column P). Total quarterly sales revenues in Confidential Appendix A3 and A6.1 align with sales data in Confidential Appendix A4.

**5. If any of the customers listed at appendix A4 (domestic sales) are associated with your business, provide details of the association. Describe the price effect of the association.**

Abey Australia does not have any associated customers for sales of the subject goods.

**6. Attach a copy of distributor or agency agreements/contracts.**

Abey Australia does not have any third party distributor or agency agreements.

**7. Provide copies of any price lists.**

Abey Australia does not operate a generic sales list for the subject goods. Abey Australia does provide customers with a price list that is customer specific.

Please refer to Confidential Attachment A-5.7 for examples of customer specific price lists, including for [*customer name, customer name, customer name*].

**8. If any price reductions (for example commissions, discounts, rebates, allowances and credit notes) have been made on your Australian sales of like goods provide a description and explain the terms and conditions that must be met by the customer to qualify.**

- **Where the reduction is not identified on the sales invoice, explain how you calculated the amounts shown in appendix A4 (domestic sales).**

Abey Australia provides discounts and/or rebates to certain customers. Discounts include early settlement and volume discounts, along with rebates negotiated by customer. Abey Australia highlights that the provision of discounts (i.e. early settlement) and rebates (head-office, volume-based, customer-specific) are common within the plumbing accessories industry. Abey Australia provides for discounts and/or rebates up to xxx per cent of invoice price in certain circumstances. It is not uncommon for xxx per cent off-invoice rebates to apply.

Please refer to Confidential Attachment A-5.8 (i) for discounts by customer and Confidential Attachment A-5.8 (ii) for the types of rebates paid by Abey Australia.

- **If you have issued credit notes (directly or indirectly) provide details if the credited amount has not been reported appendix A4 (domestic sales) as a discount or rebate.**

Abey Australia does provide discounts for the subject goods. Please refer to Confidential Appendix A4 (Columns M and N) that quantifies the discounts provided at the customer level.

9. **Select two domestic sales in each quarter of the data supplied in appendix A4 (domestic sales). Provide a complete set of commercial documentation for these sales. Include, for example, purchase order, order acceptance, commercial invoice, discounts or rebates applicable, credit/debit notes, long or short term contract of sale, inland freight contract, and bank documentation showing proof of payment.**

Abey Australia has included two complete sets of commercial documents for each quarter during the twelve months to December 2023 with this application.

Refer to Confidential Attachment A-5.9 for commercial documents.

10. **Provide a list of model control codes from appendix A4.**

The following MCCs for sales of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets that account for more than 96 per cent of domestic sales of total brackets manufactured by Abey Australia are listed below.

Category	Model (MCC)	Sub-category	Sales Data	Cost data	Key Category
Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets	0059	Light hanging brackets (300mm) - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0060	Stand-Off brackets - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0080	Adjustable Stand-Off brackets - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0061M	All-Thread brackets - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
	0063	Welded Nut Bracket 10mm - galvanised	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes

## **A-6 General accounting/administration information**

### **1. Specify your accounting period.**

Abey Australia's financial year is 1 July to 30 June.

### **2. Provide details of the address(es) where your financial records are held.**

Abey Australia's financial records are held at its premises at 57-81 Abey Road, Cobblebank, Victoria 3338.

### **3. To the extent relevant to the application, please provide the following financial documents for the two most recently completed financial years plus any subsequent statements:**

- **chart of accounts;**
- **audited consolidated and unconsolidated financial statements (including all footnotes and the auditor's opinion);**
- **internal financial statements, income statements (profit and loss reports), or management accounts, that are prepared and maintained in the normal course of business for the goods.**

*These documents should relate to:*

- 1. the division or section/s of your business responsible for the production and sale of the goods covered by the application, and**
- 2. the company overall.**

A copy of Abey Australia's chart of accounts is available at Confidential Attachment A-6.3.1.

Copies of Abey Australia's annual reports for 2022 and 2023 are provided at Confidential Attachment A-2.9 (i) and (ii).

A copy of Abey Australia's internal financial statements for the months of March, June, September and December 2023 are at Confidential Attachment A-6.3.2.

### **4. If your accounts are not audited, provide the unaudited financial statements for the two most recently completed financial years, together with your taxation returns. Any subsequent monthly, quarterly or half yearly statements should also be provided.**

Abey Australia's accounts are not audited. Please find attached Abey Australia's 2022 and 2023 annual tax returns (Confidential Attachment A-6.3.3).

### **5. If your accounting practices, or aspects of your practices, differ from Australian generally accepted accounting principles, provide details.**

Abey Australia's accounts comply with Australian accounting standards.

### **6. Describe your accounting methodology, where applicable, for:**

- **the recognition/timing of income, and the impact of discounts, rebates, sales returns warranty claims and intercompany transfers;**

Abey Australia recognises revenue at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement by the company of those goods.

- **provisions for bad or doubtful debts;**

A general 'provision for doubtful debts' has been recognised based on the historical level of bad debt incurred by the company and also taking into account the relevant current industry and economic conditions. Management review the provision on an annual basis and adjust the carrying balance as deemed necessary.

- **the accounting treatment of general expenses and/or interest and the extent to which these are allocated to the cost of goods;**

Abey Australia's general and overhead costs incurred within the manufacturing business are recognised in the profit and loss of the manufacturing business.

- **costing methods (eg by tonnes, units, revenue, activity, direct costs etc) and allocation of costs shared with other goods or processes;**

Costs are determined on a per unit basis. The cost of manufactured products includes direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

- **the method of valuation for inventories of raw material, work-in-process, and finished goods (eg FIFO, weighted average cost);**

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

- **valuation methods for scrap, by-products, or joint products;**

Valued at lower of cost and net realisable value.

- **valuation methods for damaged or sub-standard goods generated at the various stages of production;**

Valued at lower of cost and net realisable value.

- **valuation and revaluation of fixed assets;**

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to a revaluation surplus in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charges against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are recognised in profit or loss. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

An average useful life of 15 years is used by Abey Australia for production equipment.

- **average useful life for each class of production equipment, the depreciation method and depreciation rate used for each;**

The residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. Gains and losses are recognised immediately in profit or loss.

The depreciation method followed is on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life.

- **treatment of foreign exchange gains and losses arising from transactions and from the translation of balance sheet items; and**

Any foreign exchange gains or losses are recognised on settlement.

- **restructuring costs, costs of plant closure, expenses for idle equipment and/or plant shut-downs.**

Abey Australia has not incurred any restructuring costs over the injury period.

7. **If the accounting methods used by your company have changed over the period covered by your application please provide an explanation of the changes, the date of change, and the reasons.**

Accounting methods have only changed to the extent required by Australian and international accounting standards during the injury period.

## **A-7 Cost information**

1. **Complete appendices A6.1 and A6.2 (cost to make and sell) for domestic and export sales.**

Abey Australia has completed Confidential Appendix A6.1 and A6.2 for the goods the subject of this application. Abey Australia's export sales are to New Zealand only.

2. **Provide a list of model control codes from appendix A6.1 and A6.2.**

A listing of the subject goods (i.e. interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets) is disclosed at Section A-3.10 above. The following highest volume product codes (accounting for 96 per cent of total sales of the subject goods) have been separately listed:

- Hanging bracket galvanised (300mm) – Code 0059;
- Stand-Off Bracket- galvanised – Code 0060;
- All-Thread Bracket – galvanised – Code 0061M;
- Adjustable Stand-Off Bracket - galvanised – Code 0080
- Welded Nut bracket – galvanised (10mm nut) – Code 0063.

These product codes account for approximately xx per cent of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets manufactured by Abey Australia have been included in Confidential Appendices A6.1 and A6.2.



**A-8 Injury**

1. **Estimate the date when the material injury from dumped and/or subsidised imports commenced.**

Abey Australia commenced to experience injury that is material from the dumped and subsidised exports of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets to Australia during the 2022 year.

2. **Using the data from appendix A6 (cost to make and sell), complete the following tables for each model control code of your production. P<sup>n</sup> is the most recent period.**

Abey Australia has identified five main models of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets that it manufactures and has prepared Appendix A6.1 data separately for these five categories. The remaining categories (that are aggregated as “Other”) account for a relatively minor (i.e. less than 5 per cent) of sales revenue for total interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets across the four year period.

**Index of production variations (model control code)**

Bracket type	Model No.	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hanging bracket 300mm	0059	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Stand Off bracket	0060	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
All-Thread bracket	0061M	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Adjustable Stand-Off bracket	0080	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Welded Nut Bracket – 10mm	0063	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>114.1</b>

Source: Line 8 of Confidential Appendix A6.1.

Abey Australia has experienced a decline in production of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets following the 2021 year as exports from China increased (with the easing of shipping constraints for goods exported from China). Abey Australia’s production (and sales) volumes of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in 2023 are approximately 10.5 per cent below the levels of 2021.

**Index of cost variations (model control code)**

Bracket type	Model No.	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hanging bracket 300mm	0059	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Stand-Off bracket	0060	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
All-Thread bracket	0061M	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Adjustable Stand-Off bracket	0080	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Welded Nut Bracket – 10mm	0063	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>125.8</b>	<b>121.4</b>

Source: Line 49 of Confidential Appendix A6.1.

The cost to make and sell (CTMS) interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets has increased since 2021 as the cost of raw material galvanised hot rolled coil (HRC) has escalated in price.

Abey Australia’s average CTMS interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets increased by approximately 20 per cent since 2021.

**Index of price variations (model control code)**

<b>Bracket type</b>	<b>Model No.</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Hanging bracket 300mm	0059	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Stand Off bracket	0060	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
All-Thread bracket	0061M	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Adjustable Stand-Off bracket	0080	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Welded Nut Bracket – 10mm	0063	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>122.1</b>	<b>123.1</b>

Source: Line 56 of Confidential Appendix A6.1.

Abey Australia's prices have been heavily influenced by increases in galvanised rolled coil (HRC) input prices. Where possible, Abey Australia has passed on increased costs to customers. This has resulted in lost sales (reduction of approximately 10 per cent over last two years) to imports that undercut Abey Australia's selling prices.

**Index of profit variations (model control code)**

<b>Bracket type</b>	<b>Model No.</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Hanging bracket 300mm	0059	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Stand Off bracket	0060	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
All-Thread bracket	0061M	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Adjustable Stand-Off bracket	0080	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Welded Nut Bracket – 10mm	0063	100	xxx	xxx	xxx
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>119.5</b>

Source: Line 59 of Confidential Appendix A6.1.

Abey Australia's profit in 2020 for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets was depressed as Abey Australia had been losing volumes to cheaper imported goods from China. The Covid 19 Pandemic impacted imports and Abey Australia was able to increase sales volumes. However since 2021, Abey has lost sales volumes and has also experienced price suppression contributing to a decline in profit in 2022 of approximately 20 per cent and a recovery in 2023 (which has coincided with a decline in sales volumes).

**Index of profitability variations (model control code)**

<b>Bracket type</b>	<b>Model No.</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Hanging bracket 300mm	0059	100	91.6	38.7	94.1
Stand Off bracket	0060	100	81.0	55.2	66.6
All thread bracket	0061M	100	199.0	310.5	266.7
Adjustable Stand-Off bracket	0080	100	67.4	-38.2	12.0
Welded Nut Bracket – 10mm	0063	100	648.3	1255.6	1130.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>108.4</b>

Source: Line 63 of Confidential Appendix A6.1.

The profitability of Abey Australia's interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets declined in 2022 and recovered in 2023 – although sales volumes remain 10 per cent below the levels of 2021.

### 3. Complete appendix A7 (other injury factors).

Where applicable to injury claims, prepare an indexed table for other injury factor(s) in the format above.

Abey Australia has identified trends in the following Confidential Appendix A7 indicators (for like goods).

	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Jul-Dec 23</b>
Assets	100	100.3	95.7	113.8	107.95
Capital Investment	100	383.3	175.0	685.2	55.03
Return on Investment	100	191.9	300.0	224.32	329.7
Capacity Utilisation	100	110.0	84.1	89.1	89.1
Employment	100	102.9	97.1	91.2	97.1
Wages Bill	100	81.86	80.36	84.71	44.7

Each of the Confidential Appendix A7 (for like goods) indicators relates to Abey Australia's manufacturing operations that include goods manufactured from HRC and are produced for sale into the plumbing accessories industry.

The data confirms that Abey Australia has reduced its capital expenditure on the capital equipment for manufacturing in 2023 – reflecting the deterioration in production volumes and profit (for brackets and bolted clips).

Return on investment has improved – however, this is due to the return on net assets employed (and the deterioration in the written down values of assets).

Capacity utilisation is for brackets (on an Abey Australia Financial Year basis) and confirms the trends evident in Confidential Appendix A6.1 (based on years ending June 2023 and six months to December 2023) confirming reduced production rates.

Abey Australia has also undertaken cost saving initiatives including reduction in employees. The trend data for employees and wages bill confirms reductions in 2022 and 2023.

Abey Australia does not undertake R&D for the subject goods, nor does it collect data on hours worked per employee or productivity output.

## A-9 Link between injury and dumped or subsidised imports

To establish grounds to initiate an investigation there must be evidence of a causal relationship between the injury and the alleged dumping or subsidisation. This section provides for an applicant to analyse the data provided in the application to establish this link. It is not necessary that injury be shown for each economic indicator.

### 1. Identify from the data at appendix A2 (Australian market) the influence of the volume of dumped and/or subsidised imports on your quarterly sales volume and market share.

Abey Australia has historically maintained a strong market share in the supply of locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets since 2014. Between 2014 and 2018, Abey Australia’s market share was understood to be in the 75-80 per cent range.

In 2019 Abey Australia experienced increased competition from imported steel brackets (interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets) sourced from China. Most notably, Abey Australia lost supply to Chinese imports to Australia’s then [redacted - supplier on Australian market].

(a) Lost sales at [redacted - supplier on Australian market]

**Figure A-9.1.1 – Abey Australia interchangeable clipping system bracket sales to [Name-redacted]**

Year	Volume	Net Sales Value	% Change
2018	Xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	
2019	Xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	↓ 64.6%
2020	Xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	↓ 21.8%
2021	Xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	
2022	Xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	
2023	Xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	↓ 34.6% (om 2020)
2024	xxxxxx	\$xxxxxx	↓ 56.8%

Note: 1. Data is for Abey Australia FY.  
2. Data sourced from Bracket Sales History 2018 to 2024 by major customer at Confidential Attachment A-9.1.7)

Abey Australia’s sales to [redacted - supplier on Australian market] have dramatically declined since 2018. In 2024, Abey Australia’s sales revenues were less than xx per cent of the levels in 2018.

[Redacted - supplier on Australian market] notified Abey Australia in April 2018 that it was sourcing from a “Melb based company who have factories in Asia”. Refer Confidential Attachment A-9.1.1. Abey Australia pitched reduced prices with effect from 1 April 2018, however, this was unsuccessful (Confidential Attachment A-9.1.2). A further proposal was offered to [redacted - supplier on Australian market] in October 2019 (also unsuccessful – Confidential Attachment A-9.1.3).

In October 2020 Abey Australia offered [redacted - supplier on Australian market] competitive rates (including increased reabtes for support). This offer was declined (Confidential Attachment A-9.1.4).

Further proposals were offered to [redacted - supplier on Australian market] in October 2021 (Confidential Attachment A-9.1.5) and in 2023 (Confidential Attachment A-9.1.6). It should be recalled that raw material hot rolled coil prices had increased dramatically from 2020, yet pricing offers by Abey Australia to [redacted - supplier name] that did not reflect the significant increases) were declined by [redacted - supplier name].

The loss of [redacted - supplier name] resulted in a decline in market share which continued until the 2021 year when import supply was restricted due to constraints on shipping movements – particularly supply from China. Abey Australia became aware that Aztec Plumbing Supplies was a supplier of imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets (supplied by Ningbo Fenghui Metal Products of China). Abey Australia understood that the imported goods undercut Abey Australia’s locally-produced supply of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, contributing to an increase in market share for Chinese imports and a decline in Abey Australia’s market share (as evidenced in Confidential Appendix A2).

During 2021 Abey Australia experienced an increase in demand as imports of the subject goods from China were difficult to source. However, in 2022, imports from China returned to pre-pandemic levels resulting in reduced sales volumes of locally produced steel brackets for Abey Australia. By this time, Abey Australia estimates its market share had declined from approximately 75 per cent to circa 60 per cent. The decline in sales volumes – lead by significant declines in sales to the second largest distributor in Australia, [redacted - supplier name] - is confirmed in Abey Australia’s Confidential Appendix A2 data where domestic sales of locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets have declined by approximately 10 per cent since 2020.

Abey Australia understands that its market share has, in 2023, declined to be well below 60 per cent.

(b) Sales declines at [Customer name]

[Customer name] is a plumbing accessories outlet where Abey Australia has experienced reduced sales since 2018.

**Figure A-9.1.2 – Abey Australia interchangeable clipping system bracket sales to [Redacted – name]**

Year	Volume	Net Sales Value	% Change
2018	Xxxx	\$xxxxx	
2019	Xxxx	\$xxxxx	
2020	Xxxx	\$xxxxx	
2021	Xxxx	\$xxxxx	
2022	Xxxx	\$xxxxx	
2023	Xxxx	\$xxxxx	↓ 89% since 2020
2024	xxxx	\$xxxxx	

Note: Data is for Abey Australia FY.

Abey Australia’s sales to [customer name] have deteriorated since 2021 – with sales in 2024 down xxxx per cent since 2021.

[Customer name] is sourcing its requirements from imports.

(c) [Redacted – customer name]

Similar reductions in sales are also observable at [customer name] since 2021. Figure A-9.1.3 confirms that [customer name] has substantially reduced its requirements from Abey Australia and is now sourcing predominantly from imports.

**Figure A-9.1.3 – Abey Australia interchangeable clipping system bracket sales to [customer]**

Year	Volume	Net Sales Value	% Change
2018	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2019	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2020	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2021	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2022	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2023	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	↓ 85% since 2020
2024	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	

Note: Data is for Abey Australia FY.

The decline in sales of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets at xxxxx further demonstrates that Abey Australia has lost sales volumes across the most recent two-year period.

(d) Swans Plumbing

Abey Australia historically has held a strong supply position at Swan's Plumbing. Sales volumes, however, have declined significantly since 2019 (see Figure A-9.1.4 below).

**Figure A-9.1.4 – Abey Australia interchangeable clipping system bracket sales to [Customer name]**

Year	Volume	Net Sales Value	% Change
2018	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2019	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2020	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2021	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2022	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	
2023	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	↓ 83% since 2020
2024	xxxxx	\$xxxxx	

Note: Data is for Abey Australia FY.

Aggregate Lost Sales

Abey Australia has lost sales to imports across [customer name], [customer name], [customer name] since 2021 that account for approximately xx per cent of sales of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. Remaining lost sales are spread across Abey Australia's remaining customer base.

It should be recalled, however, that the Australian market for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets has increased since 2020 by approximately 15 per cent<sup>2</sup> – Abey Australia has not participated in this substantial market growth.

- 2 Use the data at appendix A2 (Australian market) to show the influence of the price of dumped and/or subsidised imports on your quarterly prices, profits and profitability provided at appendix A6.1 (costs to make and sell). If appropriate, refer to any price undercutting and price depression evident in the market.

Abey Australia competes directly with imports from China on the Australian market. China is the only import source of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets and has established

<sup>2</sup> Refer Confidential Appendix A2 – Australian Market.

distribution channels via two large distributors [*importer name and importer name*].

Abey Australia has experienced aggressive price undercutting from Chinese sourced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets supplied by [*importer name and importer name*] with local prices undercut by between 30 and 40 per cent. The following examples demonstrate the levels of price undercutting that have occurred since 2019 – encouraging traditional customers to switch sourcing away from Abey Australia.

As indicated above, in 2018, Abey Australia lost supply at [*customer name*] – one of Australia's two leading plumbing distributor wholesalers. Sales by Abey Australia at [*customer name*] accounted for approximately 12-15 per cent of Abey Australia's annual sales volumes in 2018. Unquestionably, [*customer name*] was a key customer for Abey Australia.

At approximately the same time at which Abey Australia lost sales at [*customer name*], it was understood that [*importer*] was supplying imported Chinese interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets at prices that significantly undercut Abey Australia's four highest volume interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. All prices are for cartons of 50 units. The following demonstrates the price undercutting evident from the Chinese imports that are considered to have been accepted by [*customer*] resulting in lost sales volumes for Abey Australia at that account.

**Table A-9.2.1 Price undercutting 2019 at [*Distributor name*] (a *customer name* competitor)**

	<b>Stand-Off Bracket (MCC 0060) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>All Thread Bracket (MCC 0061) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>Adj Stand Off Bracket (MCC 0080) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>Bracket arm extension 300mm MCC 0059 Carton 50 Units</b>
Abey Australia Price				
<i>Importer</i> (ex Ningbo) Price				
Undercutting	39.1%	39.0%	66.0%	30.1%

Source: Refer Confidential Appendix A6.1 for Abey Selling Prices in 2020, and Confidential Appendix B1 for price quotations at [*importer name*].

The price undercutting apparent across the four highest sales volume interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets sold by Abey Australia was in the range of 30.1 to 66.0 per cent.

Abey Australia considers that [*customer*] would have switched supply away from Abey Australia (as notified in 2019) and sourced its supply of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China (likely from Ningbo Fenghui Metal Products).

(i) Recent price undercutting

Abey Australia highlights that the sourcing of information on competitor pricing of imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets is difficult and limited. Abey Australia, however, has obtained some recent market intelligence on its competitiveness with Chinese exports from its participation in the Australian market.

Abey Australia further highlights that pricing for the subject goods - interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets – are not subject to change as in other markets for steel products. Abey Australia has found that in 2021 (and thereafter) the increased hot rolled coil prices did not translate to higher import offers for the imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. Rather, offers for imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets remained flat or, in some instances, declined to lure customers away from supply from Abey Australia.

Example 1 – April 2022

Abey Australia was informed of pricing for imports via two customers (*customer name* and *customer name*) of price increases effective 1 April 2022 for imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets sold by [*importer name*]. Abey Australia was notified about its relative competitiveness with the imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. Abey Australia understands that the prices are subject to a 5 per cent rebate (often ste at a minimum 5 per cent).

**Table A-9.2.2 – ACP Pricing at [*customer name*] April 2022**

	Stand-Off Bracket (MCC 0060) Carton 50 units	All Thread Bracket (MCC 0061) Carton 50 units	Adj Stand Off Bracket (MCC 0080) Carton 50 units	Bracket arm extension 300mm MCC 0059 Carton 50 units
Abey Australia Pricing				
<i>Importer price</i>				
Undercutting	50.6%	47.3%	67.1%	23.1%

Source: Abey Australia’s prices and [*importer*] prices from competitor information analysed in Confidential Attachment A-9.2.1.

[*Importer*] is one of the largest importers of the subject goods (*Name* is another large importer) and is active in supplying imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in Australia. Table A-9.2.2 above confirms that [*importer*] prices with effect from 1 April 2022 undercut Abey Australia’s prices (at that time) across its four highest volume interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in the range 23.1 per cent to 67.1 per cent.

It should be noted that the pricing change effective 1 April 2022 remained in place through the remainder of 2022 and into 2023 and continues to impact Abey Australia’s prices across its customer base. **Competitor prices obtained at a point in time often remain valid for twelve months or longer.**

Example 2 – October 2022

In late 2022, Abey Australia was made aware of prices from the importer [*name*] The prices were price-list based with no details on the rebate to be applied. Abey Australia has applied a 15 per cent rebate (based upon customers requirements and competitive with 15 per cent offered by *importer name*) and identified price undercutting in Table A-9.2.3.

**Table A-9.2.3 – Aztec Pricing October 2022 to [*Customer name*]**

	Stand-Off Bracket (MCC 0060) Carton 50 units	All Thread Bracket (MCC 0061) Carton 50 units	Adj Stand Off Bracket (MCC 0080) Carton 50 units	Bracket arm extension 300mm MCC 0059 Carton 50 units
Abey Australia				
<i>Importer price</i>				
Undercutting	44.4%	36.1%	27.1%	34.7%

Source: Abey Australia’s prices obtained for each model from Confidential Attachment A-9.2 for sales to [*customer*]. The importer [*name*] prices also included in Confidential Attachment A-9.2.

The price list prices offered by [*importer*] undercut two of four of Abey Australia’s largest interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in the range 27.1 per cent to 44.4 per cent.



**Example 3 – May 2023**

Abey Australia was informed of pricing by [importer] at one of its customers including advice as to how competitive Abey Australia was with its pricing.

This customer (name) confirmed the level of price undercutting evident when contrasted with Abey Australia’s prices.

**Table A-9.2.4 – ACP pricing at [customer name]**

	<b>Bracket arm extension 300mm (MCC 0059) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>Stand Off Bracket (MCC 0060) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>All Thread Bracket (MCC 0061) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>Welded Nut Bracket (10mm) MCC 0063</b>	<b>Adj Stand Off Brackets (MCC 0080) Carton 50 units</b>
Abey Australia Price					
Importer price					
Price Undercutting	32.5%	40.0%	44.0%	40.4%	61.0%

Source: Abey Australia’s prices obtained for each model from Confidential Attachment A-9.2. [Importer] prices (including known rebates received) also at Confidential Attachment A-9.2.

Abey Australia’s net selling prices at [Customer name] were undercut by approximately 32.5-61 per cent for the five interchangeable clipping system brackets in May 2023.

These recent quotations confirm that the price undercutting from the dumped and subsidised import interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China continues in 2023 (and 2024).

**Example 4 – February 2023**

Abey Australia supplies [customer name] with interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. The customer notified Abey Australia about its competitiveness with alternate source of supply (importer). The pricing differential is identified in Table A-9.2.5 for three models, Stand-Off Brackets, All Thread Brackets and Welded Nut brackets.

**Table A-9.2.5 – competitor pricing**

	<b>Stand Off Bracket (MCC 0060) Carton 50 units</b>	<b>Welded Nut Bracket (10mm) MCC 0063</b>	<b>All Thread Brackets (MCC 0061M) Carton 50 units</b>
Abey Australia			
Importer price			
Price Undercutting	17.2%	31.4%	49.6%

Source: Abey Australia’s prices and competitor offers at [customer] obtained for each model from Confidential Attachment A-9.2 – Summary of competitive offers.

Abey Australia’s net selling prices at [customer] for its Stand Off Brackets, Welded Nut Brackets and All Thread Brackets were undercut by between 17.2 per cent and 49.6 per cent in February 2023.

### Example 5 – February 2023

A further price undercutting example was brought to Abey Australia's attention at its customer [customer name]. At this account, the competitor price for imported Stand Off Brackets for supply in March 2023 was \$21.0 per carton of 50 units. Abey Australia's net selling price was \$36.50 (i.e. 42.5 per cent undercutting).

Abey Australia's selling prices for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets therefore is subject to significant price undercutting from imported goods – that influence Abey Australia's ability to pass on raw material HRC cost increases and as demonstrated by this application, contribute to loss of sales volumes.

The loss of sales at [customer], [customer], [customer] and customer] represent loss of profit for Abey Australia that, in the absence of dumping, would have been able to secure at fair prices.

(ii) Impact on price and profit, profitability

The impact of the dumping of Chinese interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets on the Australian market has resulted in Abey Australia experiencing a decline in sales volumes for the subject goods of approximately 10 per cent since 2020, and an estimated 15-20 per cent reduction in market share. The import prices that have undercut Abey Australia have resulted in reduced offers by Abey Australia at key accounts. The predominant injury to Abey Australia, however, is most observable in lost sales and market share.

In terms of profit and profitability, Abey Australia's profit on interchangeable clipping system brackets is lower than it otherwise should be due to the loss of profit on forgone sales at identified customers.

The dumped and subsidised imports from China are the only source of competition to Abey Australia. Abey Australia has sought to pass on costs for higher raw material inputs in 2021 and 2022. However, the price undercutting from the dumped and subsidised imports has resulted in lost sales volumes (and market share), price suppression and lost profit and profitability (on the lost sales volumes).

**3. Compare the data at appendix A2 (Australian market) to identify the influence of dumped and/or subsidised imports on your quarterly costs to make and sell at appendix A6.1 (for example refer to changes in unit fixed costs or the ability to raise prices in response to material cost increases).**

The manufacture of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets is significantly influenced by the costs of hot rolled coil ("HRC") which can account for xxx per cent of more of the production costs. As Abey Australia has its own sales and marketing team for supply of the locally produced goods throughout the Australian market, there is limited opportunity to reduce sales, marketing and distribution costs.

The dumping and subsidisation of imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets establishes an environment where customers accept the unfair prices as the norm and Abey Australia must reduce its selling prices (or lose sales volumes) in order to maintain sales. Abey Australia typically does not seek to reduce selling prices (thereby experiencing margin erosion) and, as a consequence, suffers from lost sales volumes at key customers.

The selling prices for the allegedly dumped and subsidised interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets substantially undercut Abey Australia's selling prices (as evidenced in examples in Section A-9.2 above). Abey Australia has experienced lost sales volumes as certain customers seek to lower their purchase prices and source from imported goods from China and protect their operating margins.

It has been Abey Australia's experience across the injury period (2020 to 2023) that the competitive import prices from China have not demonstrated any shift following increases in the price for raw material HRC. Rather, the selling prices for imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets have remained stable not reflecting higher production costs. Due to flat prices for imported products, Abey Australia has held prices down until it was evident that it could not continue to operate where it does not increase prices to recover higher cost inputs.

Abey Australia has raised selling prices in 2022 and 2023 to recover higher input costs however this has prevented Abey Australia from accessing increased sales volumes in a market that has grown by 15 per cent since 2020.

- 4. The quantity and prices of dumped and/or subsidised imported goods may affect various economic factors relevant to an Australian industry. These include, amongst other things, the return on investment in an industry, cash flow, the number of persons employed and their wages, the ability to raise capital, and the level of investment in the industry. Describe, as appropriate, the effect of dumped and/or subsidised imports on these factors and where applicable use references to the data you have provided at appendix A7 (other economic factors). If factors other than those listed at appendix A7 (other economic factors) are relevant, include discussion of those in response to this question.**

The economic indicators in Abey Australia Confidential Appendix A7 confirms that the company has experienced reduced utilisation rates for the goods the subject of the application, declines in employment numbers and wages bills and a deterioration in productivity (tonnes per employee).

Certain economic indicators (e.g. R&D, productivity, ROI by individual grouping) are not recorded by Abey Australia.

Abey Australia contends that the declines evident in the "Other" economic indicators can be attributable to Abey Australia responding to the competitive imports that undercut Abey Australia's selling prices. It is also apparent that Abey Australia has undertaken cost reductions in expenditure (re-investment, employment levels and wages) so that it can do what is within its control to improve its competitiveness.

It is evident from the capital expenditures in the recent years that Abey Australia has not continued to re-invested in a business that cannot achieve adequate returns.

- 5. Describe how the injury factors caused by dumping and/or subsidisation and suffered by the Australian industry are considered to be 'material'.**

The production and sale of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets is a product range within the broader plumbing accessories product lines that Abey Australia manufactures at its Cobblebank, Victoria production site.

In 2019, Abey Australia commissioned a new powder coating line to undertake powder coating of plumbing accessories as required by the Australian market. Abey Australia has demonstrated its commitment to produce these and similar products with enhanced production capability (i.e. powder coating) to meet the needs of the Australian market.

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets segment of the broader plumbing accessories market is a small but not insignificant sub-segment of the market. The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets market is high volume and is a product that is complimentary to a further broad range of accessories including welded clips, saddles and industrial clips. The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets market contributes a substantial proportion of the revenues in the plumbing accessories market and the decline in sales volumes and reduced profits and profitability are considered material in Abey Australia's total local manufacturing base.

**6. Discuss factors other than dumped and/or subsidised imports that may have caused or may threaten to cause injury to the industry. This may be relevant to the application in that an industry weakened by other events may be more susceptible to injury from dumping and subsidisation.**

Abey Australia does not consider that there are factors other than dumping and subsidisation that have had a *material* impact on the steel brackets market.

It is recognised that raw material steel input costs have increased in 2022 and 2023, however, these cost increases are consistent with global movements in steel prices.

**7. This question is not mandatory, but may support your application. Where trends are evident in your estimate of the volume and prices of dumped and/or subsidised imports, forecast their impact on your industry's economic condition. Use the data at appendix A2 (Australian market), appendix A6 (cost to make and sell), and appendix A7 (other economic factors) to support your analysis.**

Abey Australia has been operating in Australia since 1953 and manufacturing sheet steel products since 1967. The company operates state-of-the-art production facilities that enables it to compete successfully with fairly priced imports. Abey Australia manufactures quality light weight sheet steel products including products supplied into the plumbing accessories industry. In 2019, Abey Australia commenced operation of its new powder coating production line that enables it to conduct in-house powder coating of steel products (including the coating of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets).

Abey Australia is the sole Australian manufacturer of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets for supply into the plumbing industry. There are a variety of brackets produced of which five products – light hanging brackets (MCC 0059), stand off brackets (0060), all -thread brackets (0061M), adjustable stand off brackets (0080) and welded nut brackets (0063) account for approximately xx per cent of local production and sales of all interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets manufactured by Abey Australia.

Following increased sales growth between 2012 and 2018, Abey Australia experienced strong competition from Chinese imports of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. In 2019 Abey Australia lost sales at Australia's second largest plumbing accessories distributor [*customer*] that commenced sourcing of its products from China (understood to be supplied by Ningbo Fenghui Metal Products Co., Ltd). Abey Australia lost market share as a consequence of losing its sales at [*customer*].

The pandemic contributed to an increase in demand for locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, however, in 2022 and 2023 Abey Australia has lost sales volumes and is now at levels 10 per cent below 2020 volumes. Abey Australia understands that its market share has also declined from highs of 75 to 80 per cent to approximately 55 per cent in a market that has expanded by 15 per cent since 2020.

The short-lived increase in demand for locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets in 2021 was cut short by a return to dumping practices for Chinese imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. Abey Australia understands that the dumping of Chinese interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets has undercut Abey Australia's prices by significant margins that, have resulted in customers switching sources of supply away from Abey Australia.

Further losses of sales volume (and market share) are considered likely if Chinese imports of

interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are permitted to continue at unfairly traded prices.

The decline in production and sales volumes also impacts production throughput and increases the cost of production (on a per unit basis). Coinciding with the increased penetration of the imports from China has been the substantial increase in costs of raw material HRC that accounts for approximately xx per cent of the typical manufactures production costs. Abey Australia has experienced higher input costs in 2021 and 2022 and has sought to pass these cost increases on to customers in 2022 and 2023.

Abey Australia's local manufacture of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets is at risk from the dumping and subsidisation of Chinese interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets that have increased sales volumes and market share on the Australian market. Abey Australia is an SME that has suffered material injury from lost sales volumes (and profits achievable sales forgone in an expanding market) over the most recent two-year period. Abey Australia seeking the Anti-Dumping Commission to commence an investigation into its claims in this application (as soon as possible) and impose provisional measures on the dumped and subsidised exports at the earliest opportunity from Day 60 of the investigation.

# PART B

## DUMPING

**IMPORTANT**

All questions in Part B should be answered even if the answer is 'Not applicable' or 'None' (unless the application is for countervailing duty only: refer Part C). If an Australian industry comprises more than one company/entity, Part B need only be completed once.

## **B-1 Source of exports**

### **1. Identify the country(ies) of export of the dumped goods.**

The country of export of the dumped and subsidised goods is the People's Republic of China ("China").

### **2. Identify whether each country is also the country of origin of the imported goods. If not, provide details.**

The country of origin of the dumped and subsidised goods is the same as the country of export (i.e. China).

### **3. If the source of the exports is a non-market economy, or an 'economy in transition' refer to Part C.4 and Part C.5 of the application.**

China is not considered a non-market economy country for the purposes of Australia's Anti-Dumping legislation.

### **4. Where possible, provide the names, addresses and contact details of:**

- **producers of the goods exported to Australia;**
- **exporters to Australia; and**
- **importers in Australia.**

Abey Australia has encountered difficulties in identifying the names of producers of the goods exported to Australia. The plumbing accessories industry is populated with numerous exporters of the goods from China, making identification of the manufacturer of the exported goods difficult.

Abey Australia, however, has been able to identify a key Chinese manufacturer of the goods exported to Australia. This company is also understood to be an exporter of the goods.

#### **Producer:**

Ningbo Fenghui Metal Products Co., Ltd  
Yaotang, Xingpu Town, Cixi  
Ningbo China  
Tel: +86 574 6358 9153  
Fax: +86 574 6358 9153  
Web: [www.chinachitong.com](http://www.chinachitong.com)

Ningbo Fenghui Metal Products Co., Ltd "Ningbo Fenghui" specializes in producing plumbing fittings and accessories. Ningbo Fenghui claims that it has "Australian Standards and Water Mark certificates, American UPC and NSF Certificates".

Ningbo Fenghui produces all of its production for export sales (i.e. it does not sell on the domestic market in China).

#### **Exporter:**

Ningbo Xinliyuan International Trading Co., Ltd  
311 Yuellin East Road  
Fenghua Ningbo China  
Tel: 011 86 057 488863387  
Fax: 011 86 057 488855187  
Email: [ydy@xinlinjie.com](mailto:ydy@xinlinjie.com)

It is understood that Ningbo Xinliyuan International trading Co., Ltd is an exporter of the subject goods manufactured by Ningbo Fenghui Metal products Co., Ltd and has supplied Bunnings in

Australia.

Abey Australia notes that according to Ningbo Fenghui's product catalogue that the subject goods produced and exported to Australia by it have – coincidentally – the same product codes as Abey Australia's product codes for brackets. Please refer to extracts from Ningbo Fenghui's product catalogue for brackets – including Product Codes 100058 (bracket arm extension 300mm), 100059 (bracket arm 300mm), 10082 (bracket arm 600mm), Product Codes 100060 (Stand Off bracket galvanised), 100078 Stand Off bracket (powder coated), Product Code 100061 (All Thread Bracket), and Product Code 100080 (Adjustable Stand Off bracket).

Please refer to Non-Confidential Attachment B-1.4.

### Importers

The following companies are understood to be importers of the subject goods:

Aztec Australia Pty Ltd  
70 Logis Boulevard  
Dandenong South, Victoria 3175  
Tel: (03) 9768 2394

Aztec is an importer that supplies the plumbing accessories distributor Tradelink. Tradelink is also a customer of Abey Australia. Tradelink has moved to import supply for its plumbing accessories including interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, the subject of this application.

Australian Consolidated Plumbing (ACP)  
23 Seton Road  
Moorebank, NSW 2170  
Tel: 1300 020 269  
Fax: (02) 8105 9839

ACP is a wholesaler and distributor of plumbing products, including the goods the subject of this application. Abey Australia understands that ACP imports the interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China and supplies to customers that previously purchased from Abey Australia.

- 5. If the import volume from each nominated country at Appendix A.2 (Australian Market) does not exceed 3% of all imports of the product into Australia refer to Part C.6 of the application.**

China is the only major import source for interchangeable bolted clipping system bracket supply into the Australian market. Abey Australia understands that the lost sales volumes it has experienced have been supplied by imported interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China.

It is therefore understood that the imports of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China exceeds 3 per cent of the total import volume of the goods into Australia in any given period.

- 6. In the case of an application for countervailing measures against exports from a developing country, if the import volume from each nominated country at Appendix A.2 (Australian Market) does not exceed 4% of all imports of the product into Australia refer to Part C.6 of the application.**

The import volume of Chinese interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets into Australia exceeds 4 per cent of the total import volume of the goods in any given period.



## B-2 Export price

Possible sources of information on export price include export price lists; estimates from the Australian Bureau of Statistics; a deductive export price calculation from the Australian selling price of the imported goods; export sales quotations or invoices; foreign government export trade clearances.

- 1. Indicate the FOB export price(s) of the imported goods. Where there are different model control codes or levels of trade involved, an export price should be supplied for each.**

Import data for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets is not separately identifiable in published Australian Bureau of Statistics import statistical data. The tariff classification for the goods is a generic category that includes a broad range of manufactured items of iron or steel. There exists no separate statistical code classification for the subject goods.

Abey Australia is therefore unable to provide estimates of FOB export prices for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets exported from China as published by a reliable source.

- 2. Specify the terms and conditions of the sale, where known.**

On the basis that import pricing information is not available, the applicant has relied upon deductive export price information to identify relevant FOB export prices for Chinese exports to Australia. See B-2.3 below.

- 3. If you consider published export prices are inadequate, or do not appropriately reflect actual prices, please calculate a deductive export price for the goods. Appendix B1 (Deductive Export Price) can be used to assist your estimation.**

Abey Australia has determined deductive export price calculations based upon feedback received from customers in relation to the competitiveness of Abey Australia's prices for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets versus alternative Chinese imported goods.

Abey Australia does not have access to any other information from which it can assess export prices and/or import volumes from China – except for the feedback received from its customers.

- 4. It is important that the application be supported by evidence to show how export price(s) have been calculated or estimated. The evidence should identify the source(s) of data.**

Abey Australia has calculated deductive export prices – refer Confidential Appendix B-1 with references to supporting information for selling prices (at Confidential Attachments B-2.4 for Eagles Plumbing, Gainforts, Mayne Plumbing, Porters, Specialised Plumbing) and relevant cost information.

The Deductive Export Prices (DEPs) are based upon competitive price offers for imported Chinese steel brackets across the five model codes that account for approximately 96 per cent of Abey Australia's sales.

Abey Australia has calculated the DEPs to reflect the costs that an importer and distributor of brackets would incur. Abey Australia considers that the importer/distributor would incur the same domestic freight and warehousing costs, similar SG&A and a level of profit (considered to be approx. 5 per cent). These amounts (with exception of profit have been sourced from Abey Australia's average 2023 expenses to include in the DEP calculations) .

The following DEPs for the exported goods have been identified:

<b>Customer</b>	<b>MCC</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>DEP (A\$ per box of 20/50)</b>
<i>Customer name</i>	0060	01/05/23	xxxx
	0059	01/05/23	xxxx
	0061M	01/05/23	xxxx
	0080	01/05/23	xxxx
	0063	01/05/23	xxxx
<i>Customer name</i>	0060	7/2/23	xxxx
	0061M	7/2/23	xxxx
	0063	7/2/23	xxxx
<i>Customer name</i>	0060	29/3/23	xxxx
<i>Customer name</i>	0059	1/3/23	xxxx
	0060	1/3/23	xxxx
<i>Importer to Customer name</i>	IGBFIX (0060)	1/10/22	xxxx
	IGBSOPC	1/10/22	xxxx
	IGBADJ (0080)	1/10/22	xxxx
	IGBAT (0061M)	1/10/22	xxxx
	IGBWELDED (0061M)	1/10/22	xxxx
	IGB300 (0059)	1/10/22	xxxx
	IGBW10	1/10/22	xxxx
<i>Importer to Customer name</i>	800060	1/4/22	xxxx
	800061	1/4/22	xxxx
	800080	1/4/22	xxxx
	800059	1/4/22	xxxx
	800063	1/4/22	xxxx
<i>Importer to customer name</i>	800059	1/4/22	xxxx
	800060	1/4/22	xxxx
	800061	1/4/22	xxxx
	800080	1/4/22	xxxx
	800063	1/4/22	xxxx

Source: Confidential Appendix B1 Deductive Export price, with pricing sourced from Confidential Attachments B-2.4 for specific customers.

### **B-3 Selling price (normal value) in the exporter's domestic market**

Possible sources of information about domestic selling prices in the country of export include: price lists for domestic sales (with information on discounts); actual quotations or invoices relating to domestic sales; published material providing information on the domestic selling prices; or market research undertaken on behalf of the applicant.

**1. State the selling price for each model control code of like goods sold by the exporter, or other sellers, on the domestic market of the country of export.**

Abey Australia understands that the goods the subject of this application (interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets) are not sold on the Chinese domestic market.

In the event that the subject goods were manufactured and sold in China, it is Abey Australia's understanding that due to the Government of China's ("GOC") influence on raw material hot rolled coil selling prices in China, that a particular market situation for the goods is apparent (See further at B-4 below).

Abey Australia has relied upon constructed selling prices for the range of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets for normal value purposes. Please refer to B-4 below.

**2. Specify the terms and conditions of the sale, where known.**

Please refer to B-4 below.

**3. Provide supporting documentary evidence.**

Refer to B-4 below.

**4. List the names and contact details of other known sellers of like goods in the domestic market of the exporting country.**

Abey Australia has identified one Chinese manufacturer of the exported goods. Please refer to B-1.4 above.

### **B-4 Estimate of normal value using another method**

This section is not mandatory. It need only be completed where there is no reliable information available about selling prices in the exporter's domestic market. Other methods of calculating a normal value include:

- the cost to make the exported goods plus the selling and administration costs (as if they were sold in the exporter's domestic market) plus an amount for profit (if applicable);
- OR
- the selling price of like goods from the country of export to a third country.

**1. Indicate the normal value of the like goods in the country of export using another method (if applicable, use appendix B2 Constructed Normal Value).**

**A. Introduction**

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are produced from either galvanised (or black) steel hot rolled coil ("HRC"). Similar to hollow structural sections ("HSS") where the Anti-Dumping Commission ("the Commission") confirmed that HRC is the major raw material used in the manufacture of HSS, HRC is also the major raw material used in the manufacture of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets.

In HSS, some of the HRC used to produce HSS is galvanised. For interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets the subject of this application, all raw material HRC used in producing the interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets is either galvanised or black (i.e. standard HRC).

**B. Raw material HRC**

In Report 590 the Commission confirmed that it had received raw material purchase (i.e. HRC) data for three exporters of HSS to Australia. The Commission contrasted the Chinese exporters' HRC prices with the verified prices for HRC from exporters in Korea and Taiwan over the 2020/21 investigation period and determined<sup>3</sup>:

- *based on export data, HRC prices paid by Chinese exporters are generally lower than prices paid by Korean and Taiwanese exporters;*
- *based on MEPS HRC prices, HRC prices in China are consistently lower equivalent prices for HRC purchased in Korea and Taiwan;*
- *Dalian Steelforce (Chinese exporter) HRC purchase prices are consistently lower than Australian industry purchase prices.*

The Commission concluded that Chinese manufacturers of HSS generally had access to lower priced raw material galvanised HRC prices that producers in Korea, Taiwan and Australia. Abey Australia submits that this finding applies equally to HRC used to manufacture steel brackets in China during 2023.

Abey Australia has obtained pricing for HRC in China, Korea and Taiwan across 2023). Abey Australia has identified the following price differentials for galvanised HRC sold in China versus domestic prices in Korea and Taiwan are apparent.

**Table B-4.1 – Galvanised HRC selling prices in China, Korea & Taiwan**

Period	China A\$/MT	Korea A\$/MT	Taiwan A\$/MT	Differential China:Korea	Differential China:Taiwan
Jan 23	924.027	1355.799	1289.026	431.772	364.999
Feb 23	919.838	1345.013	1316.040	425.175	396.202
Mar 23	980.65	1455.23	1415.56	474.54	434.91
Apr 23	918.39	1428.17	1322.17	509.78	403.78
May 23	911.22	1370.63	1252.43	459.61	341.21
Jun 23	880.11	1369.48	1192.20	489.37	312.09
Jul 23	880.77	1344.78	1179.38	464.02	298.61
Aug 23	920.96	1373.35	1214.53	452.39	293.56
Sep 23	933.28	1399.61	1221.58	466.34	288.30
Oct 23	953.17	1342.63	1237.75	389.45	284.57
Nov 23	942.73	1362.22	1227.78	419.49	285.04
Dec 23	713.79	1203.39	965.67	489.60	251.87
<b>Ave</b>	<b>906.58</b>	<b>1362.54</b>	<b>1236.17</b>	<b>455.96</b>	<b>329.60</b>

Source: [Industry source] at Confidential Appendices A1 to A7, worksheet "Name Prices".

Table B-4.1 confirms the Commission's findings in Report 590 that HRC pricing differentials between domestic prices in China and domestic prices in Korea and Taiwan have continued in 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Report 590, Section B4.2, P.179.

Domestic prices for galvanised HRC in China were 33 per cent below domestic prices in Korea and 27 per cent below domestic prices in Taiwan in 2023. Abey Australia considers that that the pricing differentials between China, and Korea and Taiwan, continue to demonstrate the GOC's influence on raw material galvanised HRC in China during the period.

C. Proper comparison between domestic and export sales

Having been satisfied that a particular market situation pursuant to section 269TAC(2)(a)(ii) the Commission then examined, whether because of the situation in the market of the country of export if the sales of like goods in that market are not suitable for determining a price under section 269TAC(1).

It is Abey Australia's understanding that there is an absence of domestic sales of the subject goods in China. However, even if there were domestic sales of the subject goods (i.e. interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets), Abey Australia does not consider there has been a change in the circumstances established by the Commission in Report No. 590 concerning the equal impact of the particular market situation on domestic and export sales of like goods.

Abey Australia concurs with the Commission's findings in Report No. 590 that<sup>4</sup> *"the relationship between price and cost and the prevailing conditions of competition in China is different in comparison to the relationship between price and cost and the prevailing conditions of competition in the Australian market. Specifically, the effect of the particular market situation in China is a decrease in input costs across all production that results in a lower level of competitive pricing throughout the market in China. This relationship defines the conditions of competition in China."*

The Commission further determined that *"Chinese exporters enjoy a cost advantage that manifests as an increased margin at the prevailing level of competitive pricing in the Australian market, a lower export price that undercuts the Australian industry pricing, or a combination whereby the Chinese manufacturer can enjoy a higher margin whilst still undercutting the Australian industry. In other words, the effect of the particular market situation on export price is to modify the conditions of competition in Australia to the benefit of Chinese exporters and, to the extent that benefit manifests as a low price, to the detriment of Australian manufacturers. Thus the relative effect of the particular market situation on domestic and export prices is different in the relevant markets."*

As in Report No. 590 where the Commission found that Chinese domestic selling prices are not suitable for determining normal values for cooperating Chinese exporters under section 269TAC(1) because *"the price of such sales do not permit a proper comparison with the export prices"* for HSS, Abey Australia contends that the same situation is evident for galvanised steel brackets exported to Australia from China due to the GOC influence on domestic and selling prices of the subject goods.

Abey Australia therefore contends that the Commission's findings in Report 590 concerning the GOC's influence on HRC input prices into further steel manufacturing (i.e. HSS, galvanised steel products including interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets) continues into the 2022/23 year and that normal values for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets cannot be determined under section 269TAC(1).

D. Constructed normal values – galvanised steel brackets

Abey Australia has determined constructed normal values in accordance with subsection 269TAC(2)(c) based upon Abey Australia's production costs for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, adjusted for steel input costs for Korea and Taiwan on a quarterly basis between January and December 2023.

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<sup>4</sup> Report 590, Section B6, P.182.

Abey Australia produces a range of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets including light hanging brackets, stand-off brackets, adjustable stand-off brackets, All thread brackets and welded nut brackets. These five categories are the largest selling brackets manufactured by Abey Australia and account for approximately 96 per cent of all sales of Abey Australia’s locally produced brackets.

For the purposes of constructed normal values by MCC, Abey Australia has prepared *prima facie* normal values for the five models, namely:

- light hanging brackets, 300mm, MCC 0059;
- stand-off brackets – MCC 0060;
- adjustable stand-off brackets – MCC 0080;
- all thread brackets – MCC 0061M
- welded not brackets (10mm) – MCC 0063.

Abey Australia has constructed a domestic China selling price for each of the five models identified, adjusted to include a HRC steel cost for Korean and Taiwan galvanised steel to address the particular market situation evident in China for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets. Abey Australia has utilised its own production costs for the 2023 year that involves the metal pressing and packaging of the finished goods.

Costs associated with the selling, marketing and administration (SG&A) expenses of the goods by a manufacturer in China have been assessed at approximately 10 per cent of production costs (in the absence of actual data by a Chinese company). The SG&A amount is considered reasonable. A 10 per cent profit has been included – considered reasonable for a manufacturing business that utilises high capital machinery costs.

The constructed normal value for each of the five models of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, for each quarter of the 2023 year is included in Table B-4.2 below. The constructed cost for each model is for a box/carton of 50 units. All values in Australian dollars.

**Table B-4.2 – Normal values for interchangeable clipping system brackets – 2023**

Model	Jan-Mar 23	Apr-Jun23	Jul-Sep 23	Oct-Dec 23
Light Hanging bracket - 300 mm (0059)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Stand-Off bracket (0060)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Adj Stand Off bracket (0080)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
All Thread Bracket (0061M)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Welded Nut Brackets (10mm) (0063)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx

Source: Refer Confidential Appendix B2 Constructed Normal Value at Confidential Appendices A1 to A7.

**2. Provide supporting documentary evidence.**

Abey Australia has included detail information concerning sourcing of steel prices and costs in Confidential Appendices A1 to A7 file (See “B2 Constructed normal values” worksheet).

## B-5 Adjustments

A fair comparison must be made between the export price and the normal value. Adjustments should be made for differences in the terms and circumstances of the sales such as the level of trade, physical characteristics, taxes or other factors that affect price comparability.

1. **Provide details of any known differences between the export price and the normal value. Include supporting information, including the basis of estimates.**

Abey Australia has calculated constructed normal values for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets based upon the best available information, including domestic galvanised HRC costs in Korea and Taiwan, and Abey Australia's production costs for converting galvanised HRC into each of the identified interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets.

All details including source of costs utilised are referenced at Confidential B2 Constructed normal values.

2. **State the amount of adjustment required for each and apply the adjustments to the domestic prices to calculate normal values. Include supporting information, including the basis of estimates.**

Please refer to B2 Constructed normal values worksheet.

## B-6 Dumping margin

1. **Subtract the export price from the normal value for each model control code of the goods (after adjusting for any differences affecting price comparability).**

Abey Australia has calculated dumping margins based upon the constructed normal values (Confidential Appendix B2) and deductive export price calculations (Confidential Appendix B1) for interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets exported to Australia over the period January 2023 to December 2023. Dumping margin calculations are at Confidential Appendix B1.

**Table B-6.1 – Calculated *prima facie* dumping margins A\$ per carton**

<b>Model</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 2023</b>
Light Hanging bracket - 300 mm (0059)	\$0.32-\$2.13
Stand-Off bracket (0060)	-\$1.98- \$1.77
Adj Stand Off bracket (0080)	-\$1.86-\$0.30
All Thread Bracket (0061M)	\$8.11-\$21.43
Welded nut brackets (10mm) (0063)	\$1.42-\$3.45

2. **Show dumping margins as a percentage of the export price.**

The dumping margins as a percentage of export price have been calculated. Refer to Confidential Appendix B1.

The negative margins that appear for some MCC's can be attributed to an absence of detail on actual rebates received for imported goods sold by the distributor. This information is confidential to the customer and Abey Australia is not privy to confidential details concerning actual rebates provided for imported goods.

Once dumping margins are calculated on a weighted average basis, the calculated dumping margin across the bracket range will be determined above negligible levels.

**Table B-6.2 – Calculated *prima facie* dumping margins – as % of export price**

<b>Model</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 23</b>
Light Hanging bracket - 300 mm (0059)	2.70-21.32%
Stand-Off bracket (0060)	-16.20-20.84%
Adj Stand Off bracket (0080)	-18.79-3.94%
All Thread Bracket (0061M)	34.11-297.7%
Welded nut brackets (10mm) (0063)	7.78-21.29%

Refer to Confidential Appendix B-1 for dumping margins as a percentage of export price calculations.



# PART C

## SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION

**IMPORTANT**

Replies to questions in Part C are not mandatory in all instances, but may be mandatory for certain applications.

## C-1 Subsidy

### 1. Identify the subsidy paid in the country of export or origin. Provide supporting evidence including details of:

- (i) the nature and title of the subsidy;
- (ii) the government agency responsible for administering the subsidy;
- (iii) the recipients of the subsidy; and
- (iv) the amount of the subsidy.

#### C-1.1 Introduction

Abey Australia notes the findings of the Anti-Dumping Commission (“the Commission”) in recent Report No. 590<sup>5</sup> involving hollow structural sections exported from China. As indicated, the goods the subject of this application are made from galvanised hot rolled coil (HRC). HRC is also the substrate used in the manufacture of HSS. It is therefore reasonable for Abey Australia to conclude that subsidy programs that benefit Chinese manufacturers of HSS would also benefit Chinese manufacturers of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets that are produced from HRC.

Abey Australia submits that the countervailable subsidy programs listed below and identified in Report No. 590 are considered to equally apply to producers of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets (whether or not powder coated) the subject of this application. Abey Australia has identified one key supplier of steel brackets to Australia – Ningbo Fenghui Metal products Co., Ltd – a company that is based in Ningbo a major sub-provincial city within northeast Zhejiang province. Abey Australia has identified the countervailable subsidy programs that apply to entities within Zhejiang province, as well as those programs that apply nationally (as identified in Report 590).

#### C-1..2 – Subsidy programs

The identified countervailable subsidy programs that are considered to provide a benefit to Chinese manufacturers of steel brackets include (Program No’s used in Report No. 590 have been used):

- Program 1 – Preferential Tax Policies for Enterprises with Foreign Investment established in the Coastal Economic Open Areas and Economic and Technological Development Zones;
- Program 2 – One-time Awards to Enterprises Whose products Qualify for ‘Well-Known Trademarks of China’ and ‘Famous Brands of China’;
- Program 5 – Matching Funds for International Market Development for Small and Medium Enterprises;
- Program 6 – Superstar Enterprise Grant;
- Program 7 – Research & Development (R&D) Assistance Grant;
- Program 10 – Preferential Tax Policies for Foreign Invested Enterprises – Reduced Tax Rate for Productive Foreign Invested Enterprises scheduled to operate for a period of not less than 10 years;
- Program 11 – Preferential Tax Policies for Enterprises with Foreign Investment Established in Special Economic Zones (excluding Shanghai Pudong area);
- Program 14 – Tariff and VAT Exemptions on imported materials and Equipment;
- Program 15 – Innovative Experimental Enterprise Grant;
- Program 20 – hot rolled steel provided by government at less than market value;
- Program 21 – Eater Conservancy Fund Deduction;
- Program 29 – Land Use Tax Deduction;
- Program 32 – Technology Project Assistance;
- Program 35 – Preferential Tax Policies for High and New Technology Enterprises;
- Program 36 – Local Tax Bureau Refund;
- Program 37 – Return of Farmland Use Tax;

<sup>5</sup> Report No. 590 – Continuation of anti-dumping measures on HSS exported from China, Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan.

- Program 38 – Return of Land Transfer Fee;
- Program 54 – Government Subsidy for Job Stability;
- Program 55 – Commercial Committee Support Fund;
- Program 57 – Aiding Fees for cases of Technology Information Collection;
- Program 63 – Technical innovation subsidy for deducting equipment and boiler;
- Program 66 – Grant for Technology ERP;

Abey Australia does not consider that the above identified subsidy programs represent the full range of available subsidy programs from the Government of China (“GOC”) that may be available to producers/exporters of the subject goods. For example, Abey Australia has not identified programs that may apply to a producer/exporter of the goods in provinces other than Zhejiang Province.

Please refer to Non-Confidential Attachment C-1.2 that provides detailed information (sourced from Report 590) on each of the above programs including the Background and WTO Notification, Legal basis, Eligibility Criteria (where applicable) and whether the subsidy is countervailable.

Abey Australia does not have access to information to permit it to quantify the amount of the benefit received under each program by the Chinese manufacturer/exporter. Abey Australia does consider, however, that the Chinese manufacturer/exporter is in receipt of benefits from the GOC under one or more subsidy programs that enable it to price significantly below Abey Australia’s selling prices in Australia. Abey Australia submits that the benefits received from the GOC by exporters of the subject goods in China have received countervailable benefits in excess of negligible levels (as the Commission has evidenced in Investigation No. 590 involving goods manufactured from raw material HRC).

## **C-2. Threat of material injury**

- 1. Identify the change(s) in circumstances that would make material injury foreseeable and imminent unless dumping or countervailing measures were imposed, for example by having regard to:**
  - (i) the rate of increase of dumped/subsidised imports;**
  - (ii) changes to the available capacity of the exporter(s);**
  - (iii) the prices of imports that will have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices and lead to further imports;**
  - (iv) inventories of the product to be investigated;**
  - (v) for applications claiming subsidisation, the nature of the subsidies in question and the trade effects likely to arise therefrom; or**
  - (vi) any other relevant factor(s).**

Abey Australia has experienced injury that is material from the imports of dumped and subsidised interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets from China in 2022 and 2023.

Abey Australia is therefore not relying on a threat of material injury claim against the injurious Chinese imports. However, Abey Australia submits that further increases in import volumes of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets – in the absence of anti-dumping measures – present a threat of further material injury to the Australian industry.

- 2. If appropriate, include an analysis of trends (or a projection of trends) and market conditions illustrating that material injury is both foreseeable and imminent.**

In 2018 Abey Australia estimates that its sales of locally produced interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets accounted for approximately 75 per cent of the Australian market. In the subsequent two-year period, Abey Australia’s sales volumes declined by approximately 8 per cent before recovering in 2020/21 (due to freight disruptions from China). In 2022, Abey Australia’s sales volumes of the subject goods have declined by approximately 10 per cent.

Abey Australia has encountered price undercutting from Chinese imports (only alternative source to local supply) as Chinese manufacturers increase supply following the pandemic. It is Abey Australia's view that anti-dumping measures are urgently required to arrest the decline in local sales volumes that are heavily impacted by the dumped and subsidised Chinese exports to Australia.

### **C-3. Close processed agricultural goods**

**1. Fully describe the locally produced raw agricultural goods.**

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are not close processed agricultural goods. This question does not apply.

**2. Provide details showing that the raw agricultural goods are devoted substantially or completely to the processed agricultural goods.**

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are not close processed agricultural goods. This question does not apply.

**3. Provide details showing that the processed agricultural goods are derived substantially or completely from the raw agricultural goods.**

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are not close processed agricultural goods. This question does not apply.

**4. Provide information to establish either:**

- **a close relationship between the price of the raw agricultural goods and the processed agricultural goods; or**
- **that the cost of the raw agricultural goods is a significant part of the production cost of the processed agricultural goods.**

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are not close processed agricultural goods. This question does not apply.

### **C-4. Exports from a non-market economy**

**1. Provide evidence the country of export is a non-market economy. A non-market economy exists where the government has a monopoly, or a substantial monopoly, of trade in the country of export and determines (or substantially influences) the domestic price of like goods in that country.**

China is not considered a "non-market economy" country for the purposes of Australia's Anti-Dumping provisions. This question does not apply.

**2. Nominate a comparable market economy to establish selling prices.**

China is not considered a "non-market economy" country for the purposes of Australia's Anti-Dumping provisions. This question does not apply.

**3. Explain the basis for selection of the comparable market economy country.**

China is not considered a “non-market economy” country for the purposes of Australia’s Anti-Dumping provisions. This question does not apply.

**4. Indicate the selling price (or the cost to make and sell) for each model control code of the goods sold in the comparable market economy country. Provide supporting evidence.**

China is not considered a “non-market economy” country for the purposes of Australia’s Anti-Dumping provisions. This question does not apply.

**C-5 Exports from an ‘economy in transition’**

**1. Provide information establishing that the country of export is an ‘economy in transition’.**

China is not considered an “economy in transition” country for the purposes of Australia’s Anti-Dumping provisions. This question does not apply.

**2. A price control situation exists where the price of the goods is controlled or substantially controlled by a government in the country of export. Provide evidence that a price control situation exists in the country of export in respect of like goods.**

Abey Australia understands that the selling prices on the Chinese domestic market for the goods the subject of this application are not controlled by the GOC.

This question therefore does not apply.

**3. Provide information (reasonably available to you) that raw material inputs used in manufacturing/producing the exported goods are supplied by an enterprise wholly owned by a government, at any level, of the country of export.**

Abey Australia does not have access to information on Chinese producers of the exported goods as to whether they purchase raw material inputs from State-Owned Enterprises. This information is not available to Abey Australia.

**4. Estimate a ‘normal value’ for the goods in the country of export for comparison with export price. Provide evidence to support your estimate.**

Please refer to Section B-4 above.

**C-6 Aggregation of Volumes of dumped goods**

	Quantity	%	Value	%
All imports into Australia		100%		100%
Country A*				
Country B*				
etc*				
<b>Total</b>				

\* Only include countries that account for less than 3% of all imports (or 4% in the case of subsidised goods from developing countries). Use the data at Appendix A.2 (Australian Market) to complete the table.

It is Abey Australia's understanding that the goods the subject of this application are imported from China. It is estimated almost all imports of Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are sourced from China.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A1	Australian Production
Appendix A2	Australian Market
Appendix A3	Sales Turnover
Appendix A4	Domestic Sales
Appendix A5	Sales of Other Production
Appendix A6.1	Cost to Make and Sell (& profit) Domestic Sales
Appendix A6.2	Cost to Make and Sell (& profit) Export Sales
Appendix A7	Other Injury Factors
Appendix A8	Authority to Deal With Representative
Appendix B1	Deductive Export Price
Appendix B2	Constructed Normal Value