26.10.2026

Australian Trade Remedies Commission
Investigations 1
GPO Box 1632
Melbourne VIC 3001

Subject: Support for Statement of Essential Facts No. 691 – Aluminium Windows and Doors

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing on behalf of Mecal in support of the findings outlined in Statement of Essential Facts No. 691 relating to aluminium windows and doors exported from China, and to express my strong personal support for the work being undertaken by the Australian Glass and Window Association (AGWA) to protect the future of our industry.

While I represent Mecal, a global manufacturer of advanced aluminium fabrication machinery, my connection to the Australian window and door industry goes back much further than my current position.

I have been part of this industry since 1995, and it is an industry I care deeply about.

I started my career on the factory floor as a fabricator and glazier, working in those roles from 1995 through to 2010. I know what it means to manufacture windows and doors. I understand the pressures of production, the deadlines, the costs, the long hours and the pride that comes with seeing a finished product leave the factory.

From 2010 to 2017, I moved into sales, working directly with fabricators and manufacturers across the industry. I then spent five years as a Global Technical Manager for an Australian company, working across Australia and internationally and gaining a broader understanding of manufacturing practices, technology and the challenges faced by our industry around the world.

Today, I am back in a National Sales Manager role, representing Mecal and working closely with Australian manufacturers to help them improve their production capabilities through better machinery, technology and automation.

After more than 30 years in this industry, I believe I have a fairly good understanding of where we have come from, what Australian manufacturers are capable of and, more importantly, what is at stake if we don't get this right.

What concerns me most is what I am seeing happen to Australian fabricators.

These are businesses that have spent years, and in many cases generations, building their operations. They have invested in factories, machinery, equipment and people. They employ local workers, train apprentices, support other Australian businesses and take enormous pride in what they manufacture.

Yet increasingly, they are finding themselves competing for projects against fully manufactured windows and doors imported from overseas at prices that can make it extremely difficult for a local manufacturer to compete.

I have spoken with fabricators who are frustrated, disappointed and genuinely concerned about where the industry is heading. There is a real sense of heartache when a business puts the time and effort into quoting a project, only to lose that work to an imported product on price.

For some, it is becoming harder to justify the investment they have already made, let alone consider investing more. And I think this is the part of the conversation that cannot be overlooked.

When an Australian fabricator loses a project, it is not simply another lost sale.

It is work that no longer goes through an Australian factory. It is production hours lost, less work for local employees, less opportunity to train the next generation of fabricators and potentially another investment in machinery that gets put on hold.

When this happens repeatedly, the consequences become much bigger than one business losing one project.

We risk losing manufacturing skills, technical knowledge, employment opportunities and ultimately the very businesses that have supported the Australian building and construction industry for decades.

Having spent the first 15 years of my career on the tools, I understand what those lost projects mean to the people working in those factories. And now, representing a machinery manufacturer, I see the other side of the equation. I see businesses wanting to expand, automate and become more competitive, but hesitating because they are uncertain whether the work will still be there to support that investment.

That is particularly frustrating because I know just how capable Australian manufacturers are.

Our industry has some exceptionally talented fabricators producing high-quality products. With the right machinery, technology and processes, Australian businesses can achieve outstanding levels of productivity, precision and efficiency.

At Mecal, we work with manufacturers to introduce the latest advancements in CNC machining, cutting technology and automation. These investments allow businesses to reduce production costs, improve efficiency and remain competitive.

But machinery alone is not the answer.

A manufacturer can have the best equipment in the world, but if they are competing against products entering the country under unfair trading conditions, their ability and willingness to invest will always be affected.

I want to be clear that **I am not against imports, and I am certainly not against competition.** Competition is healthy. It encourages businesses to improve, innovate and become more efficient.

What I strongly believe, however, is that Australian manufacturers deserve the opportunity to compete on a fair and level playing field.

They should be winning or losing projects based on the quality of their products, their service, their manufacturing capabilities, their compliance with Australian standards and their ability to deliver a competitive price.

They should not be placed at a disadvantage by the effects of dumped and subsidised imports.

For these reasons, Mecal supports AGWA and the Australian industry applicants in their efforts to address these issues. We also support the Commissioner's preliminary findings that aluminium windows and doors exported from China were dumped, that the Australian industry suffered material injury caused by dumped and subsidised imports, and that dumping and subsidisation may continue.

We support the introduction of effective final duties that properly address the injury identified by the Commission and provide a fairer trading environment for Australian manufacturers. I believe this investigation is about much more than tariffs and percentages. It is about giving Australian businesses the confidence to continue investing in this country.

It is about encouraging manufacturers to purchase that next machine, expand their factory, employ another tradesperson or take on another apprentice, knowing they have a fair opportunity to compete for the work available. It is also about recognising the value of an industry that has contributed so much to Australian manufacturing over many decades.

I have dedicated my entire working life to this industry. I started on the factory floor, and today I have the privilege of working with manufacturers across Australia, helping them find ways to become stronger, more productive and more competitive.

I want to see these businesses succeed. I want to see Australian factories busy, people employed, apprentices learning trades and manufacturers having the confidence to invest in their future. Most importantly, I do not want to see good Australian manufacturing businesses disappear simply because they have been unable to compete under unfair market conditions.

I commend AGWA for its continued commitment to representing Australian fabricators throughout this investigation, and I acknowledge the work undertaken by the Commission in examining the impact of dumped and subsidised imports on our industry.

I strongly encourage the Commission to ensure that the final measures deliver meaningful and lasting outcomes for Australian manufacturers.

We have the people. We have the skills. We have the technology. And we have the manufacturing capability right here in Australia.

What our industry needs is a fair opportunity to put all of that to work.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Dimento
National Sales Manager – Mecal
SCM Group Australia