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27th October 2026

Trade Remedies Notice (TRN) No 2026/147
Investigation No 691 into alleged Dumping and Subsidisation

Senator Tim Ayers

RE: Submission on how this will affect our company.

Dear Sir

Aus Inventive Design Pty Ltd is an aluminium fabrication company located in the Southwest of Sydney, NSW. We have been in business for over 25 years and this has to be the most challenging set of events we have faced in our existence. We employ over 40 people either directly (employees) or indirectly (sub-contractors, installers). We have a team of estimators and drafts people to draw up and co-ordinate the shop drawings, costings and specifications between client and engineers.

We had just started a meaningful recovery from the Covid years and now this year, 2026, we have increased costs (cost of living, shipping and diesel prices etc) due to a war we have no control over, interest rate hikes on borrowing and now the Government is looking to introduce a tariff/duty on imported windows and doors from China. We are staring down an imposed tariff of 24% yet our profit margin is only 10-15% at best.

We purchase our windows and doors from A-tech Australia, an Australian based company who has a manufacturing facility in China. We order from them on an individual project basis.

We have signed contracts in place for the supply of windows and doors worth around $10,000,000.00 for Class 2 projects over the next 2 years. (There are 10 classes of building according to NCC – Class 1 typically domestic, freestanding houses including duplexes, townhouses. Class 2 typically apartment buildings, multi-storey, multi-unit residential where people live above, below each other). I have made the distinction above to highlight the different standards between the two. Class 1 buildings have windows that can generally be purchased “off the shelf” and have little certification requirements. While windows for Class 2 are more rigorously engineered and tested to meet more demanding specifications and criteria. These windows are integrated into the building envelope and must satisfy complex structural, thermal, acoustic, weatherproofing and durability performance requirements.

If this tariff is introduced it would put us at a huge disadvantage, in fact it would put us out of business. We would have to try to pass this on to the builder as an extra tax imposed by the government, which would then be passed on to the end buyer. This is a contradiction to the all the talk about building more affordable housing for people to access and also add to inflation.
How is this fair? It does not make sense.

The feedback we have had so far is that builders are not willing to absorb this tax nor are they in a position to pass it on to the end client.

Builders are generally locked into fixed price contracts and therefore are continually looking at building to a price point and the only way for us to continue in business, that is to survive, is to import product from overseas.

During covid the Australian aluminium suppliers were hard pressed to keep up with demand when the imported products stopped entering the country. They were working their presses around the clock and running multiple shifts. Their lead times blew out from 3 weeks to 8 weeks or more due to increased demand for product to make up for zero imports. I know this as they are part of our supply chain.

If you stop imported windows and doors for Class 2 buildings, the building industry would slow down as there is not enough supply to meet the demand. Also, there is a shortage of skilled trades or people willing to work and learn on the job. We have placed many adverts for people with little result. It is really disappointing as we want to train younger people to learn from our current workforce (average age 58).

As a small business we feel continually pressured from all sides to meet various compliances, either Federal (ATO) and State (Payroll tax) government or new Building codes and regulations. We bear the cost of any increase to raw materials, accessories, new compliance regulations. It is a fluid environment, which is continually changing.

We strongly oppose this tariff being applied across the board to all windows and doors as I believe the dumping from China has more to do with Class 1 buildings. As I explained before, Class 1 buildings generally are freestanding houses and duplexes and Class 2 are multi storey residential buildings/apartments.

We ask for an exemption of this tariff on our current contracted work, that is, on signed contracts already in place. We need time to re-assess new building works as this tariff would have an adverse effect on our business. If it does go ahead, our profit margin would be reduced further. It would literally send us broke and we would be another company in the building industry supply chain to fail, following the thousands of other small companies and contractors, Australia wide, who have already gone under over the last 2 years.

We ask that you look favourably at this submission and realise that the solution is not a one size fits all scenario.

If you need further explanation please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly.
Aus Inventive Design Pty Ltd
JDouglass

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