Urban Taskforce
AUSTRALIA

5 November 2026

Mr David Latina
Commissioner
Australian Trade Remedies Commission
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2600

cc. Senator Hon Tim Ayres

Dear Commissioner Latina

Trade Remedies Notice (TRN) No 2026/146

I write in relation to the Australian Trade Remedies Commission's (ATRC) interim decision to place tariffs on the supply of certain welded steel mesh sheets from China.

As a peak industry not for profit representative of the property development and construction sector, Urban Taskforce questions the position taken in the interim decision.

While we recognise the need to protect industries from anti-competitive dumping practices by foreign companies and governments, we are concerned that the application of significant duties on basic building products could have a detrimental effect on the cost of housing construction.

The risk of this decision is that a single company that has a significant dominance in the market – 46% of total Australian production – could cause unsustainable price increases that threaten the delivery of housing supply.

The additional cost to the construction of new multi-unit housing projects and for commercial buildings in particular will make many projects unfeasible.

At a time of escalating labour and material costs in the development sector, and with the effects of fuel increases, tax changes, five interest rate rises, and economic uncertainty undermining confidence, increasing the cost of essential building components puts more pressure on project feasibility and housing affordability.

To provide support for the housing development sector, Urban Taskforce Australia urges the ATRC to reconsider these proposed tariffs completely, but at the very least, carve out the multi-storey residential construction sector and the mixed use and commercial buildings sector which rely so heavily on imported steel for their viable delivery.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission further, please contact Paul Waterhouse, Head of Policy, on [redacted] or via email [redacted]

Yours sincerely

Tom Forrest
Chief Executive Officer

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