

12 SEPTEMBER 2012

MEDIA RELEASE



Lower GST-free threshold for imports would be a win for Australia

The Australian Made Campaign is hailing the call for changes to the GST-free threshold for goods bought online from overseas vendors as a win for commonsense, good governance and fairness.

"A tax system which actively discriminates against Australian retailers and manufacturers is indefensible," Australian Made Chief Executive, Ian Harrison, said.

"With the rapid rise in online retailing, we need to urgently deal with this inequity in our current tax system whereby imported goods of less than \$1000 value are GST exempt.

"Fairness in the application of the GST system is a non-negotiable for good governance.

"The argument that it may cost more to collect the GST than the revenue generated has been dispelled by the report; but if that proves not to be the case, then the Government should simply raise the GST rate on these imports; they cannot remain GST free.

"The government is responsible for creating the best possible framework within which business can operate in this country. As it stands, every day we hear of more business closures and job losses – we don't need our GST system to be adding directly to that problem," Mr Harrison said.

The recommended changes come from a Government taskforce set up last year to look at the problem of low value imports into Australia being GST-exempt. The report released this week suggested 'simplified GST assessment arrangements' for imports worth less than \$1000.

The Australian Made, Australian Grown logo is a registered certification trademark administered by the not-for-profit company Australian Made Campaign Limited (AMCL). The logo can only be used on products that are registered with AMCL. To use the logo goods must meet the criteria set out in the Australian Consumer Law as well as the more stringent Australian Made, Australian Grown Logo Code of Practice.

For more information visit www.australianmade.com.au or call 1800 350 520.

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NOTE TO MEDIA

Australian Made, Australian Grown Chief Executive, Ian Harrison, is available for interview and vision opportunities. Please contact us if you would like to schedule a time.



ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MADE, AUSTRALIAN GROWN LOGO

The Australian Made, Australian Grown (AMAG) logo is a registered certification trademark and can only be used on products that are registered with the not-for-profit organisation Australian Made Campaign Limited. The strict set of rules governing the logo's use also require that it must always be used with one of five descriptors; 'Australian Made', 'Australian Grown', 'Product of Australia', 'Australian Seafood' or 'Australian' (for export use only). To use the logo goods must meet the criteria set out in the Australian Consumer Law as well the more stringent Australian Made, Australian Grown Logo Code of Practice. More than 1700 businesses are registered to use the AMAG logo, which can be found on more than 10,000 products sold here and around the world.

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