

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



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Call for industry to get involved in future of retail inquiry

Coalition of retailer and wholesaler associations - the Fair Imports Alliance - today said it welcomed Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten's announcement the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the future of Australian retail is now open for submissions.

Fair Imports Alliance joint spokesperson Brad Kitschke said the nine month timeline was reasonable and invited other interested industry associations to get on board and contribute to the inquiry process.

"The Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Future of Australian Retail is an opportunity for the Government to properly analyse and respond to industry concerns about the prosperity of the retail industry with importation regulations and the growth of online retailing in mind.

"The Fair Imports Alliance is working with nine industry associations to address the challenges associated with the changing market place, the growth of online trade and the need for the regulatory structures of government to match the changing marketplace.

"Any industry associations interested in joining the Fair Imports Alliance and becoming part of this process should email fairimportsalliance@retail.org.au," Kitschke said.

Fair Imports Alliance joint spokesperson reminded industry that key dates for the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Future of Australian Retail are:

- Submissions due by week beginning 16 May 2011
- Draft report release - week beginning 1 August 2011
- Submissions on draft release due by week beginning 1 October 2011
- Final report to Government by November 2011.

"Retailers, manufacturers and other key players in the supply chain should also be aware of the Australian Government's Online Retail Forum on Friday 18 February. Registrations are still being taken for the live webinar http://www.dbcde.gov.au/digital_economy/online_retail_forum.

"The Fair Imports Alliance also looks forward to some more constructive consultation regarding the customs compliance campaign which should shed light on businesses and individuals misusing the current GST free threshold for imported goods," Zimmerman said.

The Fair Imports Alliance comprises the following organisations: Australian Retailers Association (ARA), Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA), Bicycle Industries Australia (BIA), Australian Toy Association (ATA), Photo Marketing Association (PMA), Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA), Australian Booksellers Association (ABA), Australian Music Association (AMA) and the Retail Cycle Traders Australian (RCTA). For more information visit: www.fairimportsalliance.org.au or email fairimportsalliance@retail.org.au or call 1300 368 041.

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For interviews with Fair Imports Alliance spokespeople Russell Zimmerman call Kath Christie 0422 293 544 or Brad Kitschke on 0403 809 630

Released by: Fair Imports Alliance Secretariat

