



MEDIA RELEASE

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Calls repeated for retail advisory body

Ahead of the release of the final report of the Productivity Commission's Inquiry sometime this month, the Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) has repeated its call for the establishment of a retail advisory body.

The ASGA has been calling for a retail advisory body to be established for over 12 months and sites the many policy challenges faced by retail and the scattered ownership of retail policy within the bureaucracy as the key justification to establish a central advisory function.

ASGA Executive Director Brad Kitschke said,

"With the final report of the Productivity Commission due this month the government has an opportunity to continue the positive engagement with the sector that has resulted from the Inquiry process. Never before has retail been looked at in such a way that cuts across the silos of the bureaucracy and opens up policy discussion and thought leadership between the sector and government. This should not be lost once the final report is handed down".

"The retail sector and its leadership also need to be involved in the implementation of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. The sector needs to own responsibility for advising government and playing a positive role in the future of policy that affects the retail sector", Kitschke said.

The ASGA lists the numerous and fragmented bodies representing the retail sector and believes that more needs to be done to engage industry leaders in policy formulation.

"There are so many industry bodies and representative organizations, but no central point of contact, policy discussion and advice to government. It is important that the good work of the government in establishing the Productivity Commission Inquiry is not lost", Kitschke concluded.

ASGA Executive Director and Fair Imports Alliance Spokesperson Brad Kitschke will be available for comment when the final report of the Productivity Commission is handed down on 0403 809 630 or brad.kitschke@asga.com.au