

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Retail Advisory body needed

The Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) has called for the Commonwealth Government to establish a retail advisory body ahead of the release of the Productivity Commission's report into the retail sector, scheduled for 2pm tomorrow (Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> August)

The ASGA last week wrote to Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten calling for the Government to establish retail advisory structures, citing the poor state of the retail economy and the lack of a central focus for the retail sector in government.

The ASGA says that there is a need for a formal retail advisory structure to advise the Government on the PC's report, and to ensure the industry owns responsibility for the outcomes and recommendations.

ASGA Executive Director Brad Kitschke said,

"The retail sector needs a central focal point in government to consider the recommendations and provide advice. The retail sector's representative bodies are fragmented and competitive. Whatever comes out of the Productivity Commission's report, all the major players and Government need to come together around one table."

"I can understand why Government might be frustrated when consulting the sector. There is the Australian Retailers Association,(ARA) the National Retailers Association (NRA), the Australian National Retailers Association (ANRA), the United Retail Federation, state based retail federations or councils as well as industry specific Associations like the ASGA. There is a need for a central point of contact for policy advice and consultation with Government."

"Retail representative associations all need to put aside traditional petty membership competition and work together. The Fair Imports Alliance, a coalition of industry Associations has lead the way, but to move forward others must overcome their historical differences and constant competition for membership."

"When the Productivity Commission report is released tomorrow the retail community and the Government need to work together. The sector cannot remain fragmented and competitive and the Government must engage one of the most important sectors in the economy," Kitschke said.

**ASGA Executive Director and Fair Imports Alliance Spokesperson Brad Kitschke will be available for comment on the Productivity Commission's draft report tomorrow on 0403 809 630 or [brad.kitschke@asga.com.au](mailto:brad.kitschke@asga.com.au)**