

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ***RETAIL COUNCIL NEEDS A REPRESENTATIVE MANDATE***

The Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) says that there is a need to broaden the foundation membership of the recently announced Retail Council of Australia. The ASGA says the current makeup of the council has no representative mandate and risks marginalising and alienating over 50% of the retail sector.

The ASGA has today written to the Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten calling for a broader membership to be added to the Council to ensure that the majority of the sector is not excluded from this important policy forum.

ASGA Executive Director Brad Kitschke said,

“The ASGA believes that the Government has erred by alienating significant segments of the sector and we look forward to the Government broadening the membership of the Council. Less than 10% of ASGA’s membership would be represented by the existing members of the Council and this would be reflected across many segments of the retail sector. Their membership coverage is not universal, despite what they may claim.”

The ASGA would like to see the membership of the Council broadened immediately to include;

- Representatives of industry associations;
- Actual Retailers;
- Representatives of franchisee’s and franchisors and buying groups;
- Wholesale Importers and distributors.

“Many of the issues faced by the sector have been ignored by the big retail associations and there needs to be a focus on the issues. The foundation membership does not have a representative mandate, nor does it have the knowledge, history or interest in many issues affecting the retail industry that require attention, such as;

- Intellectual Property – trademark and counterfeit issues, and piracy;
- Consumer safety and Australian standards;
- Issues affecting wholesaler importers- quarantine, customs, counterfeit detection and enforcement, exclusive distribution rights;
- Regulation of group buying;
- Issues faced by Franchisee’s and Franchisors;
- Leadership on multi channel retail and the digital economy.

They don’t have policy positions on these key issues and it is important that the voices of retailers are heard.”

The ASGA has also called for a real policy debate about the issues affecting the retail sector and has accused the Federal opposition of sitting back and waiting, and not having anything to say.

“We have had a major Productivity Commission report handed down and we still don’t know what the opposition’s policies are on these issues. It is time for them to show their hand. They have gone missing when it comes to the retail sector,” Kitschke concluded.

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