

# MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release*



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## **New *Fair Imports Alliance* supports 'Future of Australian Retail' review**

The newly formed coalition of retailer and wholesaler associations - the *Fair Imports Alliance* – has supported Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten's announcement this morning of a Productivity Commission 'Future of Australian Retail' review and compliance campaign to clean up the abuse of the current \$1000 low value GST threshold.

Fair Imports Alliance joint spokesperson and Australian Retailers Association (ARA) Executive Director Russell Zimmerman said the review announcement came after new industry survey results from over 1000 retailer and wholesaler respondents revealed\*:

- 45 percent of retailers/wholesalers have shed staff as a result of trade lost to offshore internet sites that are not subject to the same taxation regime as Australian businesses;
- Over two thirds are planning more job cuts as a result of trade lost to offshore internet retailers ; and
- Retailers and wholesalers have estimated individual business trade lost to overseas online retailers in the past year at between \$51,000 and \$500,000 per business.

"Retailers and wholesalers are pleased that rather than having a stab in the dark as to what might be an appropriate GST threshold for imported goods in the changing market place, the Government has committed to looking at a full scope of issues, including individuals and businesses who may be manipulating the current system and the impact on local businesses and jobs," Zimmerman said.

Fair Imports Alliance spokesperson and Australian Sporting Goods Association (ASGA) Executive Director Brad Kitschke said the Productivity Commission review was the right decision by Government and one that should be embraced by industry and consumers.

"Taking a step back, and looking at the issue holistically is what industry has been asking for several months.

"Instead of a knee-jerk reaction, Government has chosen to delve into the full scale of the issue and examine every aspect of the wholesale and retail market. The Government should be applauded for listening to industry and for taking a path that will ensure evidence- based policy outcomes, and real and effective change," Kitschke 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 Imaging Council of Australia (PICA), 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](http://www.fairimportsalliance.org.au) or email [fairimportsalliance@retail.org.au](mailto:fairimportsalliance@retail.org.au) or call 1300 368 041.

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For interviews with ASGA Executive Director Brad Kitschke call 0403 809 630

\* ARA Online Shopping and Regulation of Imports Survey of 1000 retailers (November 2010).

Released by: Fair Imports Alliance Secretariat

