

Our Ref: CCW  
Your Ref:



24 July 2009

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Department of The Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

### **Personal Property Securities Bill 2009**

This submission is made on behalf of Piper Alderman.

We take this opportunity to express our support for the Personal Property Securities Bill 2009 and the establishment of a national electronic personal property securities register. We note the Committee's endorsement of the 'functional approach' to the reform of personal property securities law in its March report on the exposure draft of the Personal Property Securities Bill 2008 and re-confirm our support for this approach.

The Bill is a significantly revised version of the exposure draft Bill that was the subject of your Committee's report in March 2009. In our view the re-arrangement of the chapters, parts and sections of the Bill and the simplification of the drafting of numerous provisions enhance the Bill's readability and utility.

One concern with the Bill is the inclusion of new sub-clause 14(2)(c). The effect of this sub-clause is that it will not be possible to have a purchase money security interest (**PMSI**) in collateral that the grantor intends to use for personal, domestic or household purposes. This provision was not included in previous exposure drafts of the Bill and in our view it should be removed.

Consumer finance is based on taking security (or reserving title) in the financed goods and it is unusual to take security over other goods. Conversely, all-assets securities are commonly taken to secure commercial finance and in some circumstances this could include the personal assets of a sole trader, partners in a partnership or director guarantors. In the absence of sub-clause 14(2)(c) a consumer financier would not need to be concerned about a prior registered non-PMSI security interest. If sub-clause 14(2)(c) remains in the Bill a consumer financier's only security is potentially at risk unless they undertake searches and obtain a release or subordination from the holder of the prior registered security interest if that interest could extend to the consumer goods being financed by the consumer financier.

While sub-section 14(2)(c) is unlikely to be a concern in the context of financing arrangements for serial numbered goods which the grantor intends to use for personal,

**Lawyers**  
ABN 42 843 327 183  
Level 9  
239 George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

All correspondence to:  
GPO Box 3134  
Brisbane Qld 4001

Telephone +61 7 3220 7777  
Facsimile +61 7 3220 7700  
DX 105 Brisbane

[www.piperalderman.com.au](http://www.piperalderman.com.au)

**Brisbane • Sydney  
Melbourne • Adelaide**

**Partner:**  
Craig Wappett  
Direct Phone +61 7 3220 7716  
Email: [cwappett@piperalderman.com.au](mailto:cwappett@piperalderman.com.au)

To: Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Date: 24 July 2009  
Our Ref: CCW  
Page: 2



domestic or household purposes (due to the operation of other provisions in the Bill), it could increase the cost of consumer finance for non-serial numbered goods.

One consistent approach to PMSIs for both commercial and consumer finance would make the legislation less complex. It is worth noting that the personal property securities legislation in Canada and New Zealand does not distinguish between commercial and consumer PMSIs.

We submit sub-clause 14(2)(c) is unnecessary and should simply be removed from the Bill. No other consequential amendments would be required.

Yours faithfully  
**Piper Alderman**

Per: 

**Craig Wappett**  
Partner