



Subject: IT Pricing Inquiry - Late Submission.
Date: Monday, 25 March 2013 7:33:25 AM

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To the Secretariat

Dear Sir,

This letter is a response to the IT price inquiry investigating why it is that prices being charged in Australia are nothing like the prices being charged in country of manufacture especially the US.

What we have is a case of price gouging as opposed to price dumping. I'm not certain if our current international trade laws have anything that can deal with a situation like this.

Now my submission has more to do with methods I believe the Australian Government may wish to consider using should those companies called before the inquiry refuse to do anything one might regard as reasonable.

Right now this could be considered more brainstorming than serious actions but humour me as this part will be short.

1. Modify the copyright legislation to allow some relaxation of conditions for specific types of items eg. Software.
2. Pursue the matter with the WTO if they have any jurisdiction over this kind of behaviour.
3. Set up a kind of tax or duty where they must pay a certain amount of duty if they charge above and beyond a prescribed amount which may be formulated upon what the price is in the country of origin. If they are going to be getting higher margins for their product in Australia the government should be getting a cut as well.
4. Free up the grey market for imported software products. Make it possible to create proxy reselling sites in the country of origin that purport to be customers in country of origin which then wholesale proxy the serial numbers, software downloads etc across to Australia at far cheaper prices with a small cut being included for the offering of the service.
5. Set a legislative trigger where prices greater than a set percent above retail prices in country of origin attract a range of enforcement actions such as fines, duties, removal of protections such as copyright enforcement etc.

This is about as much as I can think of right now. If this kind of brainstorming has any merit then please let me know and I'll put my mind to work on ways of making things uncomfortable for those who do the kind of price gouging that happens here.

George Tasker

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