SENATE ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Inquiry into Late Payment Of Commercial Debts (Interest) Bill 2003

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION NUMBER:

1

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2 + 843 SUPPORTING LETTERS

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Peter Hallahan
The Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Room SG.64
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Please find enclosed submission for late payments of Commercial Debts (interest) Bill 2003.

Also 900 letters of support and media comment.

Yours sincerely
GERRY RALEIGH

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Small business receives no protection from the Australian government.

70% taxation and 70% employment is derived from small business.

Larger businesses ie: Insurance companies are notorious for paying 90 days plus. When small business is late paying GST it incurs a penalty of 11.28 %. There is a fundamental flaw in the GST.

The government protects itself from late payment with a fine.

Small business is not given the same right to protect itself from debtors who do not play the game, and must then incur a further penalty if it is not able to meet its GST obligations on time.

It is not only fair but logical that there must be a mechanism built into the tax system. A period of between say 30 to 40 days normal trading terms, would ensure all businesses would be able to meet their GST commitments.

If these terms are not met then the passing on of the late payment levy should be permitted.

The benefits to not only small but business in general would be

Less borrowed capital
Less overdrafts
Increased business spending
Increased employment
Better ability to forecast
Some businesses may use extended credit terms in

Some businesses may use extended credit terms instead of discounting products and services.

Many businesses have been contacted over this issue and not one has given a negative opinion, as statements from business owners of varying sizes and fields attest

Politicians Anthony Byrne

Marsha Thompson Stephen Conroy

Representative Body's VACC body repair division

NFIB

MTAA etc

And independent businesses Australia wide support the need for the government to implement this and support small business.

DIRECTOR

GERRY RALEIGH