

25 March 2003

Economics Legislative Committee
Department of Senate
Attn: The Hon. Senator Brandis - Chairperson
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

CC:

Senator Collins - Deputy Chairperson Senator Chapman Senator Murray Senator Watson Senator Webber Senator Allison

Dear Senator

Re: CLERP 7 (Corporations Legislation Amendment Bill 2002)

We would like to follow up a few important points that emerged during the Senate Public Hearings yesterday.

It was disappointing that the people on whom the financial and work burden eventually falls were not represented at the meeting. Software developers and accountants will do what they have to and charge the price. The greater complexity of the forms is more business for them. The tens of thousands of Australian companies, large and small, will pay the price for greater convenience for ASIC.

The following points supplement our presentation:

- It is true that ASIC will be saved from receiving annual returns but companies will have to do the same checking job every year and send off a cheque for the privilege. This is a hollow simplification.
- We still believe that the new forms are both more complicated and much more substantial than the old. We attach an example of what we mean.
- Consultation with the software industry last year was in very general terms, that promised
 a simplification which was not manifest in the detail of the new forms when they appeared
 a short while ago. Subsequent consultation has been of the kind that is resistant to any
 changes.
- The transitional period mentioned by ASIC yesterday was in a form new to us. We still think good administration demands a longer period of six months.

We ask you to take these points into account in considering your report to the Senate.

Yours sincerely

Solution 6

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