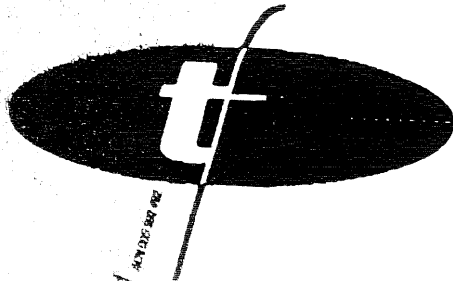


0398668963



Council of TEXTILE & FASHION Industries of Australia Limited

9 August 2004

Dr Sarah Bachelard
Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Room SG.64
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Dr Bachelard,

I am writing to respond to a line of questioning from the Senate Economics Legislation Committee at the public hearing on the evening of Tuesday 3 August 2004. Questions were raised regarding the membership of the TFIA, how representative it was of the TCF industry as a whole and the consultation process undertaken.

The TFIA currently represents between 120 and 140 companies, the exact number is somewhat difficult to determine given that several smaller associations are also members of the TFIA. While this has fallen over the last decade this is in line with the structural changes in the industry, which has seen the number of companies carrying on TCF activities in Australia decrease due to mergers, consolidations and a movement of some sectors away from TCF manufacturing into importing and retailing.

The TFIA membership ranges from some of Australia's largest TCF companies through to numerous medium and small sized companies, all of whom have an opportunity to contribute to the development of TFIA policy and submissions. Additionally the TFIA will seek and consider input from companies and groups not members of the association where issues of importance are involved.

Given this position in the industry the TFIA has been heavily involved in the development of this policy beginning with the Productivity Commission hearing and continuing with this inquiry. In respect to the Post-2005 package the TFIA in fulfilling its role as the voice of the TCF industry has consulted fully and comprehensively with its members, other associations and the industry as a whole.

Likewise, as part of this role, it has maintained a close watch and contact with the Government to ensure that the legislation and regulations developed under it reflect the package of measures announced by the Federal Industry Minister in November 2003.

Level 2, 20 Queens Road
Melbourne, Vic 3004

tel +61 3 9866 8962
fax +61 3 9866 8963

mail info@tfia.com.au
website www.tfia.com.au

MAIL ABN 28 005 500 482
FAX SERVICES ABN 28 071 575 118

RECEIVED TIME 10. AUG. 16:46

PRINT TIME 10. AUG. 16:47

0398668963

In respect to the two bills currently under consideration by the Committee, the TFIA met frequently with representatives of the Government at both departmental and TFIA organised events. Representatives from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources attended both the November 2003 and February 2004 TFIA Executive Committee meetings to outline the development of the legislation and program. In addition staff from the TFIA along with numerous members also attended the sessions held by the Department in Melbourne and Sydney.

This direct contact was supplemented with notice of the package, legislation and consultation through the TFIA's newsletter, website and articles in the Australasian Textile and Fashion Magazine. Contact was also maintained with other State-based TCF associations and groups to ensure they remained aware of the consultation process.

The TFIA undertook full and comprehensive consultations with its members and the wider industry including with Australian Business Limited and the Australian Industry Group. The views and issues raised in these forums were communicated to the Government through the consultation sessions or direct to the Department and Minister's office. At all times the TFIA's purpose has been to secure the best outcome for the industry as defined by its members. We remain committed to this package as providing the best means for the industry to advance and adapt to the changing international environment in TCF.

I would also repeat again that the industry has not been blackmailed into agreeing to tariff reductions for funding. This proposed program follows the same format as the existing program and thus remains a familiar and known concept to the industry.

I look forward to the Committees report on the legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Ashley Van Krieken
Executive Officer