



Cr. Rae Perry
MAYOR



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21 July 2004

Dr Sarah Bachelard
Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Via email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Bachelard

Inquiry into the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Investment Program Amendment (Post-2005 Scheme) Bill 2004, and the Customs Tariff Amendment (Textile, Clothing and Footwear Post-2005) Bill 2004

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee.

Darebin's Textile, Clothing and Footwear industry has long been a significant employer within the local industry structure, and the impact of the tariff reductions has been *substantial* on local businesses. In fact between 1996 and 2001, 46% of all Textile, Clothing and Footwear industry employees across Darebin were made redundant.

Furthermore, Darebin residents have a particularly high level of economic disadvantage. Of all households, 27% are on incomes under \$300 per week (the average for Melbourne is 19%) and 40% of Darebin families have incomes below the poverty line. \$90m is lost to gambling each year.

Darebin has been particularly impacted by the tariff reductions and I urge the Senate Committee to consider Darebin's Report to The Productivity Commission. The proposed bills do not address the original concerns expressed in Darebin's submission as attached

In relation to the Senate Committee's inquiry into the Strategic Investment Program, our view is as follows –

1. Changes to the Strategic Investment Program do not directly meet the needs of small business.
2. The size of the Strategic Investment Program has been reduced.
3. The two bills should be considered independently as the issue of tariffs is separate from Strategic Investment Program considerations.

Thank you again for the opportunity in making this submission, and I look forward to receiving a copy of the outcome of Senate Economics Legislation Committee Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

CR RAE PERRY
MAYOR