



Australian
Retailers
Association

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
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Dear Committee Secretary

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE (JOBMAKER HIRING CREDIT) AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the *Economic Recovery Package (Jobmaker Hiring Credit) Amendment Bill 2020*.

The Australian Retailers Association (ARA) represents nearly 8,000 independent and national members and, since 1903, has been the trusted voice for Australia's \$340 billion retail sector, which employs more than 1.2 million people.

The ARA commends the Government for delivering a stimulus package that supports businesses and incentivises employment in Australia.

The retail sector has been hard hit by COVID-19 and retailers continue to face difficult economic and operating conditions. The closure of bricks and mortar retail placed significant pressure on already reduced margins and has left many workers with income loss or unemployment.

The Christmas period is a critical time for retailers, this year more than ever. The JobMaker Hiring Credit will relieve some pressure on retail businesses to employ staff and work towards a retail recovery.

Considering, most retailers currently have increased cashflow pressure, whilst the ARA supports the Economic Recovery Package (JobMaker Hiring Credit) it is our view that payments be brought forward to support businesses immediately – critically, before Christmas rather than the proposed February 2021 payments in arrears.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to the stimulus package. If you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Yu on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Paul Zahra
Chief Executive Officer, Australian Retailers Association

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