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Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Economics  
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Greetings

**Enquiry into the Australian manufacturing industry**

My submission concerning this extremely important matter follows.

For far too long, reliance on cheap overseas imports has decimated Australian industry. Urgent action is needed now to rebuild and diversify Australian industry and infrastructure, reduce reliance on foreign investment and imports.

Very substantial investment is needed for strategic manufacturing and infrastructure. This could be led by the Australian government and include a development bank, commercial banks, and equity finance.

Australia is sadly lacking in manufacturing experience, ability and know how. This needs to be corrected quickly. Less reliance on imports is imperative if Australia is to succeed in today's world economy and survive through all the risks, delays and troubles which beset economies throughout the world.

There is a vital need to assemble key industry and infrastructure leaders, determine strategic industry and infrastructure needs and declare these as "strategic industries" to achieve exemption from World Trade Organisation and Free Trade Agreement rules.

Strategic industries include:

- important defence products
- essential pharmaceutical and other medical supplies
- Australian owned transport and agricultural equipment, vehicle industry, rail and rolling stock, agricultural machinery,
- machine tools
- metals processing industries
- essential consumer goods manufacturing
- telecommunications and transport
- agriculture and food processing industries
- low-cost energy which is needed for development of new industries.

Members of the Standing Committees have a substantial task ahead. Success is urgent and imperative if Australia is to successfully overcome the problems which will become increasingly onerous in the months and years ahead.

This enquiry is vital for the future freedom and prosperity of all Australians. I will look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations.

Kind regards

**Tony Lovett**