

13 August 2019

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Attention: Committee Secretariat

Re: Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Productivity Commission Response Part 2 and Other Measures) Bill 2019

Sterling Products is a family owned Queensland business established in 1993 that specialises in kitchen and bathroom accessory products.

I understand that the innovation patent is to be abolished by the Government. Sterling Products have two granted innovation patents that cover self-service terminal assembly such as an automatic teller machine (ATM) and a mobile assembly for accommodating fixtures such as ATM machines.

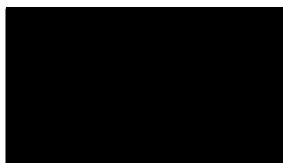
Given the subtlety of these innovations, without the option of the innovation patent to protect my inventions, it is unlikely that I would have filed standard patent protection. The innovation patent offers a fast and affordable means to get peace of mind that my inventions can be protected from copycat competitors. This also applies to other Australian businesses. As such, I am opposed to the removal of the innovation patent system.

I understand that that a replacement system for the innovation patent is not on the Government's agenda. This is inexplicable to me because I believe that businesses require all available incentives and tools to innovate.

Further, it is important that the Government understand that using the standard patent system to protect inventions such as mine is not a viable alternative. The standard patent system is far more expensive and less rapid and there is no guarantee that protection will ultimately be obtained. So for business like mine the standard patent is a very risky alternative.

I request that the Government reconsiders its decision to abolish the innovation patent system or at least offer an analogous replacement system.

Yours sincerely,



Paul K Leisemann
Chief Operating Officer