



8 August 2019

Mr Mark Fitt
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Fitt

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

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Productivity Commission Response Part 2 and Other Measures) Bill 2019 (the Bill).

It is important that intellectual property arrangements in Australia foster innovation and enable individuals and businesses to access protections afforded by patents without onerous bureaucratic processes. Our previous submissions in relation to the Productivity Commission's review argued for the retention of the innovation patent system to preserve streamlined processes and shortened wait times for small businesses in lodging applications for patents.

In light of the Government's decision to proceed with the abolition of the innovation patent system, this Office encourages the Intellectual Patent Australia (IPA) to consider ways in which the standard patent system can be administered in such a way that it is made easy for small business to use. This should include the establishment of a dedicated small business support service that provides education and training, improved navigability, reduced fees, truncated patent assessment processes and access to simplified dispute mechanisms. We would be very happy to expand on these details should the opportunity present.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Stephen Bolton on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Kate Carnell AO
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman