

Alan McMullen

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8th September 2021

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

Dear Committee Secretary and Senators,

## **The Australian manufacturing industry**

I am at the end of my working career, which gives me both history and perspective.

I started in the computer industry in 1971 and spent most of the 70's and early 80's working for GMH. Back then GMH exported Holdens to South Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia and other countries, today GMH does not exist.

In the mid 80's a partner and I started a manufacturing focused software business. over the next 10 years we developed a modern state of the art ERP software product that attracted much attention from the USA in particular, resulting in a 4 year stint living in the USA. This period included many consulting visits to an extensive range of manufacturing companies both in the USA and Europe

On returning to Australia, under a non-compete agreement, I started a 4WD parts and accessories business, and also bought a farm where my wife and family now live and operate as a commercial beef cattle enterprise.

So I have worked in primary, secondary and tertiary industries, and appreciate the importance of a strong manufacturing industry, sadly Australia was in a better relative position 50 years ago than today.

We cannot rely on mineral exports to carry us as we did with wool, being told we are the lucky country is counter productive. I urge you to identify opportunities in

smart niche industries including climate change opportunities Energy creation, storage and transmission. Thorium as an alternative to nuclear.

Making government an assistant to manufacturing startups, providing incentives loan offsets and working at entrepreneurial pace rather than government pace with red tape to inhibit ingenuity, growth and competitive advantage.

To make something is good for your self-esteem and your soul, this applies not only to individuals but also to the whole country.

Our country needs a strong manufacturing industry to complement our agriculture and services industries.

Our children deserve a strong, resilient and self-reliant country to grow up in, it is our duty to provide that for them.

All the best in your endeavours to help in establishing a strong manufacturing industry in Australia.

Kind Regards,

Alan McMullen