



Via Email Only

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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

LTCM WA Pty Ltd is a small business in Western Australia. We only employ 9 people directly, however a further up to 100 contractors are employed periodically in our contract manufacturer's factory and on our projects throughout the year.

We understand that Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (Productivity Commission Response Part 2 and Other Measures) Bill 2019 includes provisions that will result in the phasing out of the innovation patent system. We are opposed to this course of action because we believe that a second-tier patent system is important for protecting certain types of innovation by Australian businesses.

Part of our business relies on incremental innovation, that is small but commercially significant modifications of existing plant technology. Protecting this type of innovation with a standard patent comes with a high degree of uncertainty as well as expense and greater time requirements. For these reasons, we require rapid and low-cost protection that the innovation patent system provides.

We have used the innovation patent system to protect our LTCM construction system. The innovation patent system allowed us to obtain very rapid protection of these commercially relevant innovations. As such, the innovation patent system has been critical to the strategy of our business.

We also understand that no comparable system has been proposed to replace the innovation patent system. Accordingly, once the innovation patent system is abolished, strategies for protecting innovation in Australia will be reduced. This will be detrimental for the commercialisation of innovation in Australia.

We urge the Government to reconsider its decision to abolish the innovation patent system.

Yours sincerely,

Campbell Smith
Director

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