

MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Government must step in to prevent significant price hikes from Anti-Dumping Commission decision

CEO of Urban Taskforce Australia, Tom Forrest, said today's decision by the Australian Trade Remedies Commission (ATRC) - formerly the Anti-Dumping Commission - has made a preliminary finding that Chinese companies have been dumping aluminium windows and doors in the Australian market.

Urban Taskforce calls on the Commonwealth Minister for Industry, Tim Ayres, to immediately put this decision on hold to allow for its implications to be considered.

This decision will add significant additional costs to the delivery of residential apartments and commercial buildings. The decision is a disastrous return to trade tariffs and protectionism.

This decision takes us back to the pre-Hawke/Keating era tariff reductions that resulted in economic reforms and productivity growth that Australia can only dream about today. This is precisely the opposite approach to that demanded by the Commonwealth Productivity Commission.

The fact is, despite already being subsidised by the Australian taxpayer, the local aluminium window and doors suppliers are not equipped to supply the larger scale commercial and high rise residential market. That is why the sector turned to China in the first place.

This seems to have been ignored by the ATRC. This decision seeks to protect workers in Australia that do not exist, at the cost of every commercial business which work in high rise buildings and particularly, for new home buyers in multi-storey buildings.

The finding was accompanied with advice that the Commission intends to apply different rates of duty to different Chinese exporters, as per the table below, payable for imports of the goods that are entered for home consumption **on or after 15 October, 2026:**

Exporter	Duty method	Rate of IDD (%)	Rate of ICD (%)	Effective rate of ICD and IDD (%)
Altop	IDD: <i>Ad valorem</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Broad		24.4%	N/A	24.4%
Guangdong Kete		12.1%	N/A	12.1%
Zhuhai Yipeng		51.6%	N/A	51.6%
Foshan AMJ	ICD: as a proportion of the export price	5.3%	N/A	5.3%
Yuanjiang		34.8%	N/A	34.8%
Residual exporters		24.4%	N/A	24.4%
Uncooperative and all other exporters		70.4%	2.9%	73.3%

Table 2: Securities payable by importers of the goods

Orders for aluminium windows and doors that were put in place months ago will be impacted by this new tariff regime. That is a disaster. Decisions to invest in these buildings were taken on the basis of the prices available at the time. This new change from those prices unilaterally adds to the pressures currently faced by the property development sector.

This is a massive blow to confidence, coming on top of the broken election promises relating to CGT and negative gearing.

This decision will have wide ramifications.

Paradoxically, this ATRC decision is an anti-competitive move aimed at reducing alleged anti-competitive behaviours. It is a decision without nuisance as it adds a massive cost hike to products that are not available in Australia. This will not only mean price rises, but it will also delay much needed housing supply.

Placing an additional tariff on these exporters will not reduce the need for developers to turn to overseas suppliers, given the relative lack of local product to meet demand and the time it will take for local suppliers to tool up for the larger more complicated aluminium windows used in large commercial and residential developments

Further, placing a **73.3% effective tariff** on companies that weren't investigated, more than 20% higher than for the worst of the companies that were found to be dumping, makes no sense at all.

The Federal Government's National Housing Accord has set a high target for new housing to improve housing affordability. The ATRC's decision will add to construction costs and push house prices in the opposite direction.

This decision will further jeopardise those National Housing Accord targets.

Rather than limiting its decision to the Class 1 market (where there may be an arguable case), the ATRC's ruling will add to construction costs for an industry that is already suffering with four interest rate rises, escalating fuel costs due to the Gulf War, increased materials and labour costs, and a confidence-sapping Federal Budget.

Urban Taskforce calls on Minister Ayres to delay the implementation of this decision to allow him to take a fresh look at these recommendations.

End

*The comments and analysis above can be attributed to **Tom Forrest**, CEO, Urban Taskforce.*

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*The **Urban Taskforce Australia** is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.*