Urban Taskforce
AUSTRALIA

3 November 2026

Mr David Latina
Commissioner
Australian Trade Remedies Commission
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2600

cc. Senator Hon Tim Ayres

Dear Commissioner Latina

Trade Remedies Notice (TRN) No 2026/147

I write in relation to ATRC's interim decision to place tariffs on the supply of aluminium windows and doors from China. -

As a peak industry not for profit representative of the property development and construction sector, Urban Taskforce strongly opposes the position taken in the interim decision.

The interim decision will have significant implications for the cost of construction for new multi-unit housing projects and for commercial buildings, significantly increasing costs.

An *Australian Financial Review report*, featuring a number of large developers and builders including Coronation Property, Aqualand, and Deicorp (just a small sample of the many Urban Taskforce members impacted), reported that the tariffs are a "savage body blow" to the development sector.

Urban Taskforce Australia believes that your interim decision has accepted the arguments of the window industry without sufficiently seeking counterpoints from the development sector.

In your determination, you found that:

> "…*the Australian [manufacturing] industry is capable of supplying AWD across all market segments including residential, multi and high rise residential and non-residential segments*".

Urban Taskforce members strongly contest this.

It is exceedingly difficult to get locally sourced product for commercial or multi-unit residential developments, necessitating the acquisition of windows and doors from China. This is because of the size, shape, and scale of demand for these products.

While some local manufacturers claim to be able to meet local demand, our members' experience has been to the contrary. The local manufacturing base for these materials is largely focused on Class 1 buildings – stand-alone houses – and does not support larger construction projects.

Further, the cost of tooling and training associated with upscaling their production would add significantly to the cost of these supplies, increasing the price of housing even further. We simply can not afford this delay.

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The lead complainant – Ventora Group – has a range of products under the Corinthian®, Stegbar®, A&L®, Trend®, and Breezway® names. These products almost exclusively cater to Class 1 developments.

Local suppliers do not specialise in commercial or multi-unit residential developments or provide the bespoke solutions or scale needed for such projects.

Products used for Class 2 residential buildings or commercial projects are – in general – not supplied by local manufacturers, and claims that scale could be increased "within months" are not only unproven but will increase development costs considerably.

Urban Taskforce Australia members advise that the handful of "local window manufacturers" in NSW are already struggling to meet the current supply demands for the Class 1 residential housing.

As a result, and because there are perhaps only two local manufacturers capable of manufacturing "specialised " windows and doors, approximately 95% of Classes 2-9 windows and doors comes from overseas (largely from China).

The very small number of companies that do service larger developments often themselves rely upon bulk standardised products from China in order to stay competitive and to meet demand.

There may be some validity to applying tariff protection for Class 1 residential stand-alone dwellings, however, there is no justification for applying the draconian tariffs across all classes. The effect will be to delay multi storey residential and commercial building construction and/or significantly add to the costs.

We strongly contend that there is not the scale of local manufacturing in Australia to satisfy residential and commercial (i.e. non-stand-alone house) development.

The decision should be placed immediately on hold, then following further consideration, quarantined to only those areas where there is an existing competitive manufacturing capability in operation now.

The ATRC should not be penalising local builders who have no choice but to continue to source product from overseas, consequently having to wear additional tariffs up to 73%.

We have a housing supply and affordability crisis in Australia, acknowledged by the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and every state Premier. This is not the time for such a blunt approach to tariff protection. This decision will add to the feasibility problems facing our sector and it should not be progressed.

Further, and notwithstanding the above, Urban Taskforce Australia is particularly concerned about the retrospective application of tariffs on contracts that were entered into many months prior. The ATRC took an age to complete its report – then seeks to rush into place an unjustified tariff. That is simply outrageous and must be ceased immediately.

The development sector has experienced rapidly escalating costs as a result of five interest rate rises, higher fuel costs due to the Gulf War, and increased materials and labour costs. The proposed tariffs on aluminium windows and doors from China will add even more to construction costs at a time when they can least be absorbed.

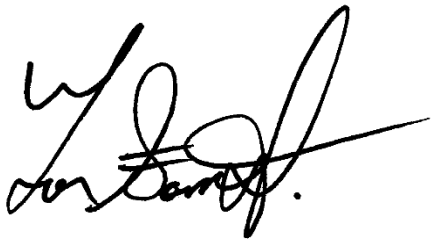
While we are not opposed to efforts to reduce dumping and unfair trade practices, the blanket tariff system proposed will add to costs of housing and commercial

building construction without protecting local manufacturing in the case of large scale supply of physically larger and more complicated windows and doors. We urge you to reconsider your position.

This submission has been copied into Minister Ayres to ensure that the Government is aware of the consequences of their endorsement of the interim position of ATRC, should you choose not to amend the ATRC's position. We have also made our submission available to media.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission further, please contact Paul Waterhouse, Head of Policy, on 0411-875-366 or via email paul@urbantaskforce.com.au

Yours sincerely



Tom Forrest
Chief Executive Officer