



SEMMA

SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE

SEMMA says Productivity Commission's 50th TAR* forgets SME's and more action required on Local Content oversight

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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA - The South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance (SEMMA) says the Productivity Commission's 50th Trade and Assistance Review* should worry less about protectionism and more about ensuring Local Content rules are more tightly managed and monitored.

The Future Made in Australia Act is attempting to build new manufacturing sectors around renewables and offers significant funding opportunities for those organizations financially placed to participate.

"However, we continually see assistance for large companies and not the SME's that are the backbone of manufacturing in this country".

"We need to ensure our Local Content Rules are applied and monitored stringently and if other countries are applying their own version of "protectionism" why shouldn't Australia?" said Honi Walker, SEMMA CEO.

"If the pandemic taught us anything – it was the need to ensure that we can and must provide the essentials for ourselves. We must continue to apply, monitor, report and manage Local Content Rules if we are to be a self-sufficient nation. Manufacturing has the ability to meet the nation's needs – we just need the policy makers to ensure that these opportunities are used accordingly," said Ms Walker.

While Australia is part of a free-market, our ability to maintain and grow our manufacturing sector while increasing employment and economic security and ensuring critical sectors like defence and food processing are critical for our nation to grow.

"It's acceptable to protect these assets. Adding value to our raw materials is where it begins for manufacturers and our Advanced Manufacturing sector will continue to grow – as long as our governments support all manufacturers in the supply chain – not just the big end of town but the SME's that employ over 90% of Australians" said Ms Walker.

ABOUT SEMMA

*SEMMA, the South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance, is a membership-based organization that represents the interests of manufacturing businesses in the South East Melbourne region. The South East region of Melbourne generates \$54b in gross regional product, hosts 50% of Melbourne's manufacturing jobs employing 232,903 people and provides 24% of Victoria's overall \$227b manufacturing output. *Data from Remplan CGD 2024*

NOTE TO EDITORS

CEO is available for comment on request.

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