

14th September 2026

Dear Productivity Commission,

It is correct that there has not been a sudden surge in imports compared to longer-term, but the upward trend of imports is rather a more insidious external system of undercutting our domestic industry and eventually sovereignty, which, itself is progressively sudden compared to a more sustainable industry in the even longer-term. These countries are undercutting the global market. It is not just FSS, but EVERY other industry, for example, Australia no longer has any cotton mills, and will not be able to even manufacture our own yarn and clothes if there is an upset to the global economy. Because of that, clothing manufacturing is also suffering, being subjected to fabrics that may say 100% cotton, but contain mixed fabrics, such as silk - in order to appeal more than traditional cotton. Cotton is just one industry, but there is a kind of "Babylonian" state forming overseas that will pay their people very little, suffering people, just to uproot the manufacturing and industries of other countries, dominate the market, and then jack their prices up when they have proprietary right to produce it. I do not agree with your comments about suggesting businesses innovate to survive, because then with that frame of mind, everything will be eventually made overseas. Do not get me wrong, I would like to agree with having more affordable goods, especially with the current cost of living, because, for example, a car is not new technology, and it is logical to assume then we should not be paying over \$20,000 for a car. But what about more basic products that we can definitely produce here, for example a chair, and what if your imported chair is not so comfortable, it is either too high or too low, but all these imported chairs are the same. You can make your own chair, but at that time perhaps the wood mills have also shut down, and the imported wood is also "treated" with "silk". The issue with silk is that, overseas, they are boiling these poor silkworms alive, estimated around 80 million cocoons each year by China, some cocoons have multiple silkworms in them, and these are thrown alive (within their safe cocoons) into boiling tanks, or heated up slowly to boiling point. I do not think that is ethical. And so if they can put silk in cotton, and even in wood, how long before the steel is "silkified" and it is not even clean, fruitful or safe. Our buildings, our infrastructure, and all manner of FSS products are (potentially) then (already), putting our lives at risk. I beseech you therefore, that you recommend to put an immediate tariff on imported FSS. There is an old story called "Legend of the Silk Princess", about the Chinese princess who married the King of Khotan, and when she left, she kept some silk worms and mulberry seeds in her headpiece, thereby smuggling the core industry out of China. And after she realised the method to make the silk, she made a decree that "no one was allowed to kill or boil the silkworms", and whosoever does that will not have divine protection.

Kind regards,
Joshua Ebert