

I, amongst many Australians, take advantage of low value imports. In my case it is low value bicycle parts - quick release skewers for example. My last order was around \$40. This will now be \$44. Will this mean that Australian manufacturers clamber over each other to gain a share of the bike skewer market? Of course not - it simply adds an administrative burden for the sake of collecting \$4 in tax. Who will pay for the administration? Well me, the consumer as the cost is passed on. And, as already set out in the Discussion Paper, the cost of doing this is considerable, all for the sake of \$300m from taxing the general population - yet again. It is a curiously narrow view of 'tax parity' that had led to this bizarre situation. Consider the more viable alternatives – implementing 'tax parity' on major overseas corporations – Chevron, it has been widely advertised, will cough up \$1B through historical tax minimisation activities. Or Google, or Apple, or Facebook – the list goes on. In fact the list goes on to Amazon who will be selling their goods, maybe even bike skewers, including GST. Will this help Australian manufacturing or retailing? Of course not, if anything retailers will lose (as has been widely reported) market share through competition, while there will still, alas, be no new entrants to bike skewer manufacturing. So leave the GST regime as it is, and consider now with all this new found revenue from overseas corporations, making all transactions under \$1000 GST free within Australia. This should encourage consumer spending and raise the level of overall economic activity. Or perhaps just dock every MP's allowances - \$110k per head should do it.

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