I frequently make purchases online due to problems with my physical mobility. I usually try to buy from Australian companies first. It is however very difficult to know which companies are actually Australian. Therefore, I think that <u>many people would be unwittingly required to pay more GST should a threshold be introduced for imported goods.</u> This is an important issue, especially for people on low incomes, such as the pension.

For example, I had thought that "au" at the end of a website address meant that it was an Australian company. I very recently however, realised that one such company is actually American- (http://www.allposters.com.au/). I have a "button" on my internet home page, which I can click to obtain website pages from Australia only, but it seems useless if a company from any country can have an Australian internet address.

I would like to call for an easy way of immediately identifying whether an online company is Australian before I waste much time perusing their products or website.

In addition, some Australian companies charge exorbitant fees for shipping, and lose my business for that reason.

John Bernacki