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4 November 2004

Product Safety Review  
Competition and Consumer Policy Division  
Department of the Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

### **Australian Consumer Product Safety System Review Discussion Paper**

In responding to the Australian Consumer Product Safety System Review Discussion Paper, this agency notes the commitment of regulatory authorities to minimising the social and economic cost of consumer product related injury in Australia.

It is apparent that the majority of consumer product safety legislation in Australia is now some 30 years old and while appropriate to that time, in an ever increasingly globalised consumer product market this raises an obvious question of regulatory effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness.

A reader of the discussion paper would be drawn to the conclusion that there is now an opportunity to review the current regime with the objective of providing improved consumer product safety outcomes, improve business efficiency and promote innovation.

In terms of the form of a revised regime the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs has recognised that consumer product safety is a shared responsibility between business, consumers and government. In promoting this approach, the Ministerial Council has established a cornerstone for a future tri-partite partnership, which should underpin any revised system.

In supporting this process of considering a revised regulatory regime, this agency recognises that it will require a commitment and spirit of co-operation of various stakeholders. As the discussion paper describes, there are a number of options in terms of approach and detail in a revised system.

Drawing on the Ministerial Council theme any revised system would be more proactive, provide certainty for business, particularly in terms of coverage, and provide a timely response where there is market failure. A revised regime should also ensure an informed market and promote the consumer role of informed decision-making. This includes the responsible use of consumer products.

We look forward to being an active participant in the development and consideration of alternate approaches.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ormerod", written in a cursive style.

Roy Ormerod  
**DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS AND FAIR TRADING**