



Sims Metal Management Submission.

John Pinning

to:

law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au

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From: John Pinning [REDACTED]

To: "law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au" <law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au>,  
[REDACTED]

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Below is the submission Sims Metal Management would like to put before Law Reform Victoria.

As Sims Metal Management has a global presence we face similar problems around crime across our business. In our opinion the most successful strategy to date is the 'no cash for scrap' law that was enforced in the UK.

Allowing cash payments within our industry creates a situation where certain groups / individuals are not recording their transactions. This leads to little or no scrutiny of the material being purchased. This facilitates an outlet for criminals to steal anything metallic including cars, copper cable etc. and receive payment for their activities. The same people who are buying the stolen material are exporting (including the waste component) to countries with little or no scrutiny to what is being imported. The exporters are not abiding by environmental, payroll, GST and Worksafe rules. The cycle is then completed by the exporters funding criminal activities, their own and others in illegal sourcing of further material.

In Victoria the problem has grown to such an extent that bona fide recyclers who pay EPA levies, superannuation, payroll tax, GST are being impacted by the flow of material going out of the state by operators who can work off a lower to zero cost base because of their non-conformity.

In the UK removing the cash transactions and enforcing the law, not only had the benefit of removing the stated issues but also reduced the crime rate. If the criminals have no outlet for the material and more importantly no cash outlet it stifles their activities.

As with Task Force Discover the same people who are unlicensed, flout the environmental, taxation, employment laws are the same people who operate on a mainly cash basis and tackling this issue would address many other issues.

I would be happy to discuss further if you need more detail.

Regards

John Pinning

General Manager VIC/TAS

61 3 9314 0844



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