

Solaris Paper Welcomes Federal Court Decision Rejecting Anti-Dumping Duties; Federal Court Upholds Attorney General's Decision on Toilet Paper Imports

Sydney, 25 March 2011, Solaris Paper, an Australian provider of high quality tissue paper products, welcomes the ruling by the Federal Court to uphold the Attorney General's move to revoke the anti-dumping duties on toilet paper imported from China and Indonesia. Kimberly Clark and SCA Hygiene petitioned the court to reverse the Attorney General's ruling, asking that anti-dumping duties be reinstated.

Justice Edmonds upheld the decision made in January 2010 by Attorney General, The Hon Robert McClelland MP, who then ruled that imports from China and Indonesia do not cause material injury to existing toilet paper manufacturers in Australia. The decision comes following a high profile campaign, led by Kimberly Clark and SCA Hygiene, that culminated in legal action claiming that overseas imports were unfairly damaging their businesses.

In making his judgment, Justice Edmonds affirmed the Customs finding that imports from China and Indonesia do not cause material injury to the Australian industry (the basis for the revocation of the anti-dumping duty). Justice Edmonds also ruled the Customs finding did not involve an error of law, nor was it irrational or illogical.

Steve Nicholson, Acting Australian CEO of Solaris Paper, welcomed the decision and said it was a vindication of the company's position since its arrival into Australia in 2007.

"Some competitors have spent a lot of time and money in recent months claiming the competition we bring to Australia unfairly damages their businesses. The decision by the Federal Court demonstrates that this argument has no merit.

"The reality is that since arriving in Australia Solaris Paper has consistently committed to offering Australians choice and value when buying quality tissue products. Many parties have attempted to block much needed competition in this market by embarking on a protectionist campaign based on misinformation and fear.

"We are pleased Justice Edmonds has seen through these arguments. This decision allows us to continue to show our genuine commitment to Australia, to move forward with further investment, to secure more long-term jobs for Australians, and to continue to deliver innovative, competitive and quality tissue products."

Solaris Paper's arrival has brought greater choice in quality products at competitive pricing to the Australian market. Industry-leading production and manufacturing techniques and the ability to monitor and source pulp supply more efficiently than others in the market has contributed greatly to Solaris Paper's success in Australia, putting the company in position to seek new avenues to expand its business and invest in Australia at a time when other providers are pulling out of the market.

Steve Nicholson said, "I congratulate the Government and the Australian justice system for acknowledging that investment and competition from overseas suppliers is welcome in this country."

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