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MARS/PRISM:

General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

30th April 2004

Your reference: C2004/22 Levy on sale of clay bricks and pavers and concrete masonry products

The Construction Industry Training and Employment Association (CITEA) wishes to support the submission from the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Board (TFB) to the ACCC, regarding the application by the Clay Brick and Paver Institute and the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia, to impose a levy on the sale of clay bricks and pavers, and concrete masonry products sold in the ACT, to raise money to fund the training of apprentice Bricklayers.

To ensure a sufficient intake of apprentices in trades where skills shortages exist, the TFB currently provides an on-the-job-training incentive payment to employers of apprentices in such trades, this has been of enormous benefit to the industry. For example, the commencement rate of apprentice Bricklayers in the ACT has increased four-fold since 2001, mainly due to these on-the-job-training incentive payments from the TFB.

However, we note that the funds raised from the levy, on the sale of clay bricks in the ACT since March 2000, has not been past on to any; ACT Group Training Organisation who employ apprentice bricklayers, individual employers of apprentice bricklayers or Registered Training Organisations for the training of apprentice bricklayers. We estimate that the ACT has been denied approximately \$120,000 in funds from this levy since March 2000, and this has given the Brick Industry Group Training Company Pty Ltd an unfair advantage over the ACT based Group Training Organisations and employers.

In conclusion, we fully support the TFB's submission and agree that all funds raised through the levy on the sale of clay bricks and pavers, and concrete masonry products sold in the ACT be forwarded to the TFB, for them to administer and distribute specific for the purpose of providing on-the-job-training incentives to employers of apprentice Bricklayers, engaged under an ACT contract of training.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mark Southwell
Executive Director

