Stanley Black & Decker Australia Pty Ltd

Resale price maintenance notification: supplementary submission

1. Introduction

Stanley Black & Decker Australia Pty Ltd (**SBD**) has set out in this document its response to the third party submissions lodged with the ACCC in response to its resale price maintenance notification (**Notification**).

2. Total Tools submission

Total Tools submission notes its general agreement with the matters forming the basis of SBD's notification. Total Tools has also sought clarification as to a number of matters. SBD has set out it response on those matters below.

First, Total Tools has asked whether SBD will have the same invoice price for all dealers. SBD confirms that the invoice price which will be used to set the minimum advertised price (MAP) will be the same for all dealers. While there will of course be variations in the actual price paid by different dealers, the invoice price and MAP will be the same for all dealers.

Accordingly, no dealer will be disadvantaged by being unable to price match a competitor who receives a lower invoice price from SBD.

Second, Total Tools has raised a question as to whether dealers who elect not to participate in promotion would be able to advertise DEWALT products below the Promotional MAP (as described in paragraph 2.2 of the Notification). SBD confirms that the Promotional MAP will only apply in circumstances where the Promotional MAP is below the usual MAP for the relevant product.

In relation to how a dealer may qualify to participate in a promotion and what other conditions may apply, SBD is not proposing to make any other changes to its current practices for promotions and dealer participation in those promotions.

3. Bunnings submission

SBD claims confidentiality over sections of its response to the Bunnings' submission as marked below.

Bunnings questions the public benefits of the Notification and alleges that it will result in public detriment in the form of a reduction of intra-brand price competition for DEWALT products, consumers being likely to pay higher retail prices for DEWALT and lower incentives for retailers to invest in cost saving initiatives. SBD disagrees with the Bunnings' submission.

SBD's position is that the Notification will promote competition, including by levelling the playing field and supporting the smaller, independent dealers who often struggle to compete against larger dealers such as Bunnings, Sydney Tools and Total Tools.

Notification will not result in a 'chilling of price competition in the market

Bunnings' claims the Notification risks "chilling price competition" in the market for high-quality power tools, attachments and accessories. The Notification does not risk having this effect having regard to both the scope of the Notification and the very strong inter-brand competition.

[RESTRICTION OF PUBLICATION OF PART CLAIMED (PAGES 1-5)] **PUBLIC REGISTER VERSION**

Scope of the Notification

First, the scope of the Notification is limited. SBD's proposal will not eliminate advertised price competition for DEWALT products. Under the notification, the MAP will set an advertising floor price but this will be set at a price that is below SBD's RRP. Accordingly, the notified conduct will still allow dealers who wish to compete on advertised price by advertising below RRP to do so. As a result, DEWALT expects that there still will be competition on advertised prices for DEWALT products and that retailers like Bunnings will continue to monitor and respond to competitor's advertised price changes.

Further, the Notification also does not prevent in-store discounting.

Strong intra-brand competition will continue

Second, there is very strong inter-brand competition in the power tool market and there will continue to be such strong competition if the Notification is allowed to stand. The Notification will have no impact on that competition.

While SBD estimates that it is the third largest power tool supplier in the market, both Techtronic and Makita are much larger suppliers
If DEWALT products are not price competitive with Milwaukee and Makita, SBD will lose sales, market share and as a consequence ranging in dealers. Further, there are other very competitive brands in the market supplied by major global power tool manufacturers. These include Bosch, Metabo, Hikoki, Festool, Fein and AEG (which is sold exclusively by Bunnings). These brands will all continue to compete strongly for sales regardless of the Notification.

It is relevant to note that Festool, with its Notification, continues to compete on price in the market. SBD believes that it has grown its share since the Notification but even with the Notification it has only been able to do so by remaining competitive on price. While the Notification has led to improved service from Festool dealers (including more dealers ranging Festool and dealers with Festool increasing the range they carry and floor space devoted to Festool), it must still be competitive on price. Accordingly, there is no evidence that this Notification has overall chilled price competition in the market.

The strong inter-brand competition between power tools manufacturers and distributors can be seen in the extent of manufacturer sponsored redemptions in the market. The attached document contains some current examples. As can be seen from the attached, there are multiple offers by all

major brands including Milwaukee, Makita, Bosch, Metabo, Hikoki, Festool and AEG offered through a range of dealers. These offers drive price competition in the retail market between brands of

power tools as well as between dealers. This activity will not be impacted by the Notification.

[RESTRICTION OF PUBLICATION OF PART CLAIMED (PAGES 1-5)] **PUBLIC REGISTER VERSION**



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Training and education investment

The statement in the Bunnings' submission that training does not impose additional direct costs of dealers is incorrect. While SBD does not charge dealers for training, they are required to invest in this training by making employees available to attend training sessions. Having employees attend training sessions rather than being on the floor selling products does cost a dealer money. For the

dealers who really invest in training, this can be a significant time commitment.

[RESTRICTION OF PUBLICATION OF PART CLAIMED (PAGES 1-5)] **PUBLIC REGISTER VERSION**

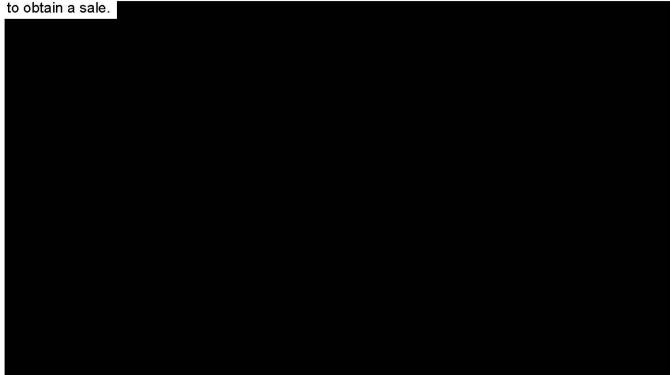
4. Techtronic Industries submission

Techtronic Industries has made a submission opposing the Notification. Techtronic Industries is the largest supplier of power tools in the Australian market.

The submission appears to be made on behalf of the Consumer Division of Techtronic Industries, which division does not include Techtronic's Milwaukee brand being its major professional power tools brand.

SBD notes that of the Techtronic Industries' key power tools brands listed in its submission, namely AEG and Ryobi, are sold exclusively through Bunnings (as are the Hart and Kango brands, although in other product categories). The issues faced by SBD and set out in the Notification are not experienced by Techtronic Industries in relation to these brands as a result of this exclusivity.

SBD disagrees that the MAP will restrict dealers from discounting DEWALT products in store. It is SBD's experience that dealers do negotiate price in-store with potential customers and will discount to obtain a sale.

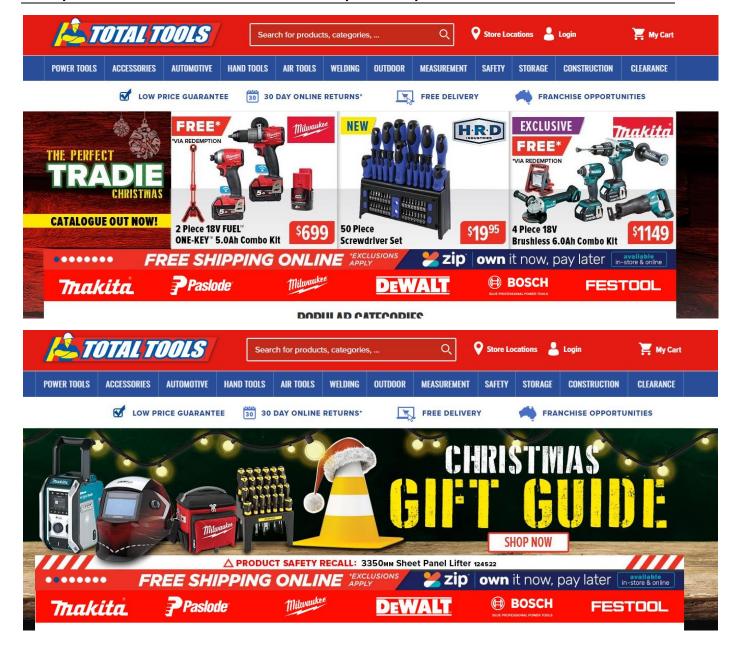


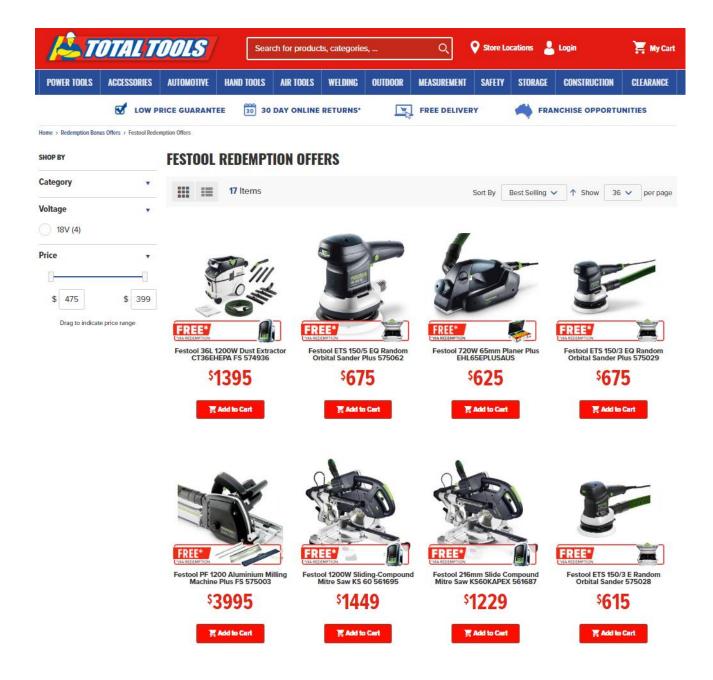
SBD also notes for the record that it fundamentally disagrees with the unsubstantiated assertions by Techtronic Industries regarding the quality of DEWALT products. It is well accepted in the market, including by dealers and end-user customers, that DEWALT is a premium, trade quality brand. SBD can provide technical specifications to demonstrate this if required.

Other clarifications

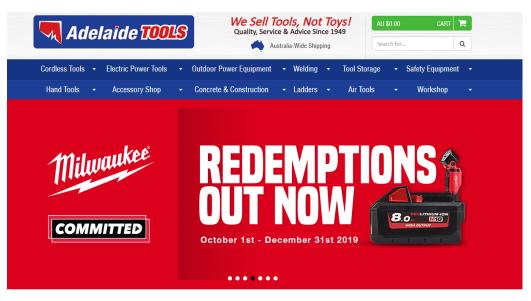
SBD confirms that the Notification does not apply to hand tools.

Examples of manufacturer / distributor driven price competition

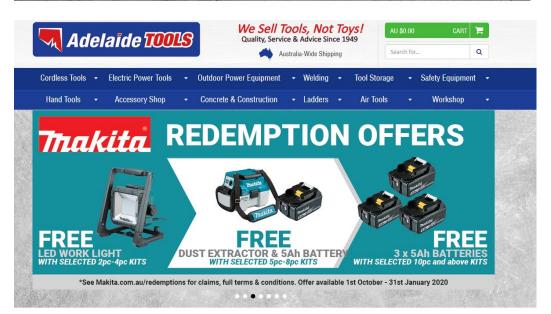


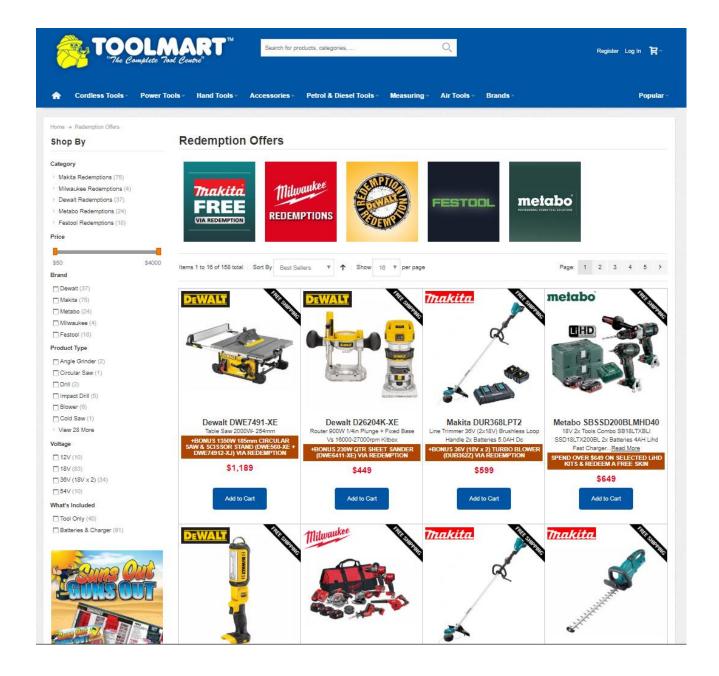




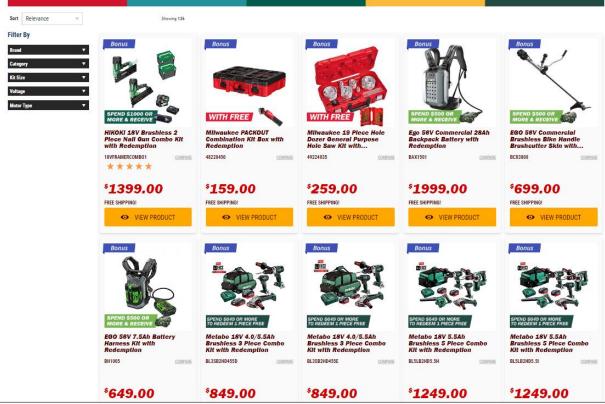


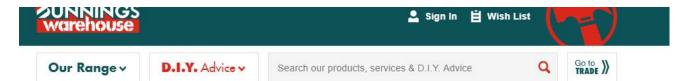


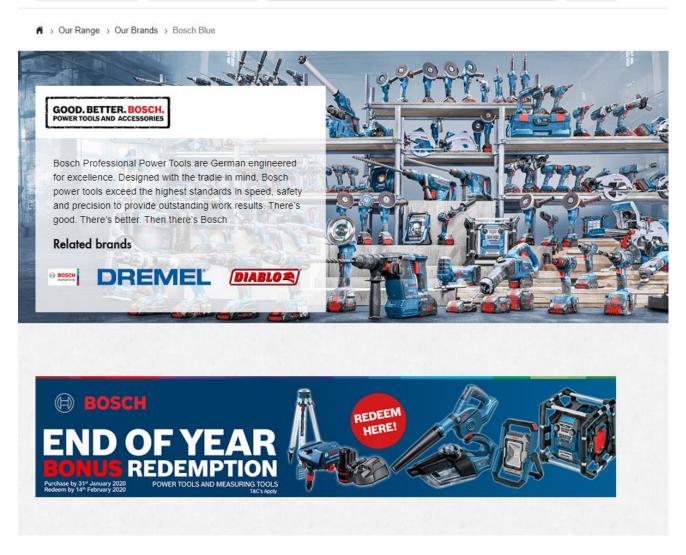


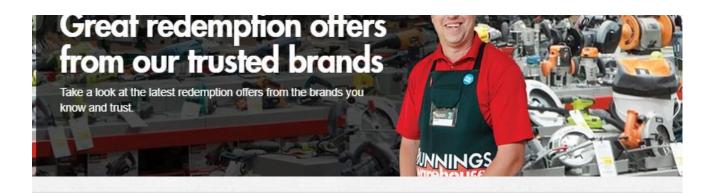


All the latest redemptions right here!









AEG

