



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR CLARK

19 MAR 2020

The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer *Josh*

I am concerned that the current volatility in the Australian stock market will make Australian companies vulnerable to purchase by foreign buyers. Indeed with the uncertainty gripping the market there is no doubt that international corporate raiders are poised to snap up Australian listed companies at bargain prices, at significant detriment to our country's economic and social wellbeing.

I understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in extraordinary but essential intervention by the Government into all aspects of Australian life. Please be alert to the possibility of foreign buyers profiting from huge swings on the Australian stock markets. To be certain that the public interest is served by any sale during the current coronavirus crisis, the Foreign Investment Review Board must be required to conduct more stringent assessments and apply more stringent criteria than it did for the Bellamy take-over.

What I want to avoid is a repeat of anything like the \$1.5bn take-over of Bellamy late last year, after its shares had shed 62 per cent of their value over the preceding 18 months, which made it a bargain-buy for an overseas company. To make matters worse, the buyer was at least part-owned by a foreign government.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Clark