Dear Sirs,

I represent the IP interests of 5 SME companies in the high tech field in Victoria. My role is to manage their IP in a way that reflects their actual commercial strategy.

In my opinion, the Innovation Patent system should be retained in some format. For the small companies I represent, this system is important at least for these reasons:

- A standard patent may be converted to an innovation patent application, requiring only an innovative step.

- The system provides a litigation tool in a standard patent system which has a pre-grant opposition and subsequent Federal Court appeal system which can delay the grant of a patent for many years.

Please consider this in your decision to possibly abolish this system.

Regards

Ashley