Customs Tariff (Uranium Concentrate Export Duty) Amendment Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 17 February 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. Barry Jones, M.P., Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To increase the rate of duty on exported uranium concentrate mined in the Alligator Rivers area.

Background
A duty is imposed on the export of uranium concentrate mined in the Alligator Rivers region by the Customs Tariff (Uranium Concentrate Export Duty) Act 1980 (the Principal Act). Funds raised through the duty are used to finance the operations of the Office of the Supervising Scientist (OSS) which is responsible for monitoring, controlling and conducting research into the environmental effects of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers region of the Northern Territory. The Alligator Rivers region includes the Kakadu National Park.

In 1987–88, expenditure on the OSS is estimated to remain at the same level as in the previous year, i.e. $6.1 million. While overall funding will remain the same, there will be a reduction in staff performing uranium-related work and an increase in staff associated with mineral exploration in the recently declared Stage 3 of the Kakadu National Park.

In the Budget, the Treasurer announced that the duty on exported uranium concentrate would be increased to recover 75% of the operating costs of the OSS. Currently, 50% of the cost is recovered. The rate of duty was last increased in 1987, when the duty was raised from 11 to 80 cents per kilogram. The Treasurer also announced that the increase would apply from Budget night.

Main Provisions
The Bill will be deemed to have come into force at 8 p.m. on 15 September 1987 (clause 2).

Clause 3 will increase the rate of duty from 80 cents to $1.02 per kilogram.
The increased rate will not apply to concentrate loaded before the commencement of this Bill. In addition, the increase will not apply to concentrate loaded after the commencement of this Bill if that concentrate formed part of a consignment that began to be loaded before the commencement of this Bill (clause 4).

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

24 March 1988

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

© Commonwealth of Australia 1988

Except to the extent of the uses permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written consent of the Department of the Parliamentary Library. Reproduction is permitted by Members of the Parliament of the Commonwealth in the course of their official duties.