CUSTOMS TARIFF (ANTI-DUMPING) AMENDMENT BILL 1983

Date Introduced: 11 May 1983
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.J. Brown, M.P., Minister assisting the Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act 1975 following introduction (by amendments to the Customs Act 1901) of the Commercial Tariff Concession Orders scheme, to replace the commercial by-law system.

Background

The rationale for the existing commercial by-law scheme and the Commercial Tariff Concession Orders scheme proposed in the Customs Amendment Bill 1983 to replace it, is that customs duties should not be imposed where the goods in question, or goods similar in type or function, are not produced in Australia. Where a protective effect is therefore absent, a customs duty may be no more than a revenue-raising consumption tax with possible depressive effects on the level of consumer demand, and cost penalties for users of imported machinery.

Dumping duties, to protect against foreign goods being dumped on the Australian market, and countervailing duties, to offset a subsidy on production in the foreign country, are similar to tariffs in that they have protective effects. Since a good which is subject to a commercial tariff concession order is prima facie not one against whose importation Australian industry needs to be protected, the Bill would make the existence of such an order a ground for non-imposition of dumping or countervailing duties.

Main Provision

The Bill is to commence with the Customs Amendment Bill 1983. Section 8 of the Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act 1975 deals with dumping duties and is to be amended to include the existence of a Commercial Tariff Concession
Order in respect of the goods as a ground for exemption from dumping duty (clause 3). Analogous amendment to section 10 is made by clause 4 in respect of countervailing duties.

For further information, if required, contact:

Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

19 May 1983

Reference
Digest of Customs Amendment Bill 1983.