INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION 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 Industry and Commerce

Purpose

To amend the Industries Assistance Commission Act 1973, consequent amendments to the Customs Act 1901 establishing the Commercial Tariff Concession Orders Scheme.

Background

Amendments to the Customs Act 1901 contained in the Customs Amendment Bill 1983 would add a new Part XVA to the Act, establishing a Commercial Tariff Concession Orders Scheme allowing imports at concessional duty rates by ministerial determination. The scheme replaces the existing commercial by-law system, which permits the Minister to make by-laws granting concessional entry of certain goods, most importantly where these or similar goods are not produced in Australia and the protective effect of the tariff therefore does not arise.

The provisions of Part XVA in section 269P permit a person affected to request that the issue or revocation of a concession order be referred to the Industries Assistance Commission to inquire whether that issue or revocation should have been made. The Minister has discretion as to whether the matter is referred, and as to whether any resulting recommendations are implemented.

Main Provisions

The functions and powers of the Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) are set out in Part III of the Industries Assistance Commission Act 1973. Subsection 23(3) deals with those matters (enumerated in subsection 23(4)) which the Minister must refer to the IAC prior to taking action. Amendments in clause 3 of the Bill exclude matters arising under the new Part XVA from this requirement.
Subsection 23(5) permits reference by the Minister to the IAC of a number of matters. Clause 3 would include, among the enumerated matters, questions arising from a request under section 269R relating to issue or revocation of a concession order.

Clause 2 provides that the provisions would commence with clause 5 of the Customs Amendment Bill 1983, which inserts the new Part XVA in the Customs Act 1901.

For further information, if required, contact:

20 May 1983

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