CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 1979

Date Introduced: 22 May 1979
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. W. Fife, Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs

Purpose

To enact formally the tariff changes made since February 1979 in Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 1 to 15 (1979).

Background and Main Items

Proposals No. 1 (introduced into Parliament on 20 February 1979, Hansard p.33).

- Changes to Customs Tariff Act will be effected by Clause 5 and Schedule 1 of this Bill.

- Changes are of an administrative nature designed to clarify the tariff position in respect of dental suction apparatus.

Proposals No. 2 (20 February, p.33), Clause 6, Schedule 2.

- to clarify the tariff position for sublimation transfer printing paper.

Proposals No. 3 (20 February, p.33), Clause 7, Schedule 3.

- The Press Statement of 15 December 1978 from the Ministers for Business and Consumer Affairs and Primary Industry announced the acceptance of the recommendations in the I.A.C. report 'Fisheries and Fish Processing Industry' of 22 September 1978. Changes involve a slight increase in duty on imports of canned tuna to 15% and a reduction to 5% or free for most other products covered.

Proposals No. 4 (20 February, p.33), Clause 8, Schedule 4.

- Press Statement of 19 December 1978 by Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs announced acceptance of recommendations in I.A.C. report 'Jewellery and Other Precious Metal Ware' of 14 July 1978.
provides for initial duty of 34% on most jewellery articles, phasing down to 25% from 20 December 1984.

Proposals No. 5 (20 February, p.33), Clause 9, Schedule 5.


Proposals No. 6 (20 February, p.33), Clause 10, Schedule 6.

- Changes follow cessation of temporary import restrictions on certain files and rasps, as from 1 January 1979.

Also correction of an anomaly in the rates of duty on certain net fabrics.

Proposals No. 7 (20 February, p.33), Clause 11, Schedule 7.

- Press Statement of 9 January 1979 announced acceptance of recommendation in I.A.C. report on 'Inks' of 24 October 1978 to reduce general rate of duty to 25%.

Proposals No. 8 (20 February, p.33), Clause 12, Schedule 8.

- Press Statement of 16 January 1979 announced acceptance of recommendations in I.A.C. report 'Injection or Puncture Needles' of 7 November 1978, increasing duty on needles from most countries to 20%.

Proposals No. 9 (20 February, p.33), Clause 13, Schedule 9.

- Changes arose from implementation on 18 February 1977 of the Government's decision on the I.A.C. report on Copper Foil, and Primary Shapes Produced by Rolling, Drawing and Extruding of Non-Ferrous Metals that rates of duty on certain metal products would be reduced after 2 years.

Proposals No. 10 (20 February, p.33), Clause 15, Schedule 11.

- Maintains current duty rate of 65% on imports of orange juice, with drafting changes only, pending final consideration of I.A.C. report on Citrus Industry. I.A.C. recommendation of 20% duty plus bounty was rejected in Press Statement of 29 March 1979.

- Exempts cognac brandies from the temporary extra duties and tariff quotas applying to other grape brandies.
announced in press Statement of 5 February 1979, pending I.A.C. report on long-term assistance for potable spirits industries.

Proposals No. 11 (20 February, p.33), Clause 14, Schedule 10.

- Press Statement of 6 February 1979 announced acceptance of main recommendations in I.A.C. report on Certain Paper and Paperboard, applying 20% duty to certain uncoated paper and paperboard.

Proposals No. 12 (20 February, p.33), Clause 14, Schedule 10.


- applies 30% duty on umbrellas, sunshades and certain parts; 30% duty general on textile covers, cases and trimmings, and 19% preferential.

- also clarifies definition of waist encircling undergarments like corsets.

Proposals No. 13 (6 March, p.640), Clause 16, Schedule 12.

- Press Statement of 2 March 1979 announced acceptance of main recommendations in I.A.C. report Work Trucks, Certain Mobile Machines etc.

- arranges for duty rates to phase down to 30% from 1 January 1981 for certain internal combustion powered fork lift trucks, and 20% for straddle carriers.

Proposals No. 14 (4 April, p.1492), Clause 17, Schedule 13.

- facilitate administration of tariff quotas introduced from 1 March 1979 on imports of certain wool and wool blend fabrics.

- provide duty-free entry of most goods imported by certain bodies established for a purpose of the Commonwealth.

Proposals No. 15 (4 April, p.1492-3), Clause 17, Schedule 13.

- following I.A.C. report on Tyres, Tyre Cases etc, and Press Statement of 1 April 1979, arranges for duty rates of 25% on motor car cross-ply tyres and aircraft tyres, and
to phase down from current 40% to 25% by 1982 for radial-ply tyres and truck, trailer and bus tyres.

- accepts I.A.C. recommendations except for longer phasing in period.


- provides for duty-free entry of most of these goods, except 20% on poly-unsaturated margarine, and 25% on epoxidised vegetable oils.

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group

28 May 1979

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE