

ANTI-DUMPING COMMISSION – BRIEF

INQUIRY INTO THE CUSTOMS AMENDMENT (ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES) BILL (NO. 1) 2015 AND CUSTOMS TARIFF (ANTI-DUMPING) AMENDMENT BILL 2015 HEARING BRIEF (4 May 2015)

A. OPENING STATEMENT - GENERAL TALKING POINTS

- I appreciate the opportunity to be able to address the Committee today as part of the Committee's inquiry into the Customs Amendment (Anti-Dumping Measures) Bill 2015 and the Customs Tariff Amendment Bill 2015.
- Since I was appointed as the Commissioner of the Anti-Dumping Commission in August 2013, I have successfully implemented a number of the previous Government's reforms to Australia's Anti-Dumping system. I have travelled throughout Australia and met key stakeholders to the Anti-Dumping system, and listened to their views on the operation of the system.
- I acknowledge that the previous reforms do not go far enough and that there is further work to do to provide better support to Australian industries that are being injured by dumped and subsidised goods.
- That is why I am pleased that the Government is delivering on its commitments to strengthen Australia's Anti-Dumping system, which is evidenced by the reform package being considered by the Committee today.
- I would like to give the Committee a brief update on the implementation of the Government's reform package that the Anti-Dumping Commission has been involved with, including the Anti-Dumping Information Service (ADIS) and the new anti-circumvention regulation into the slight modification of goods.
- The ADIS will provide the Commission with economic analysis and insight into trends and trading behaviours across market sectors. Better information earlier in the investigation process will be critical in improving Anti-Dumping investigations and ensuring that earlier, and more effective, relief can be provided to Australian businesses to address harmful dumping practices.
- The ADIS is up and running and currently consists of a Market Intelligence Unit and a Client Engagement team, but will be expanded over the coming months.
- The reforms package also addresses emerging circumvention activities with the introduction of a new anti-circumvention regulation. On April 2, amendments to the Customs Regulations were introduced which provide for a further circumvention activity to be prescribed by regulation, specifically the slight modification of goods to Australia. This will address a concern of some of our manufacturers regarding the behaviour of overseas exporters in 'slightly modify goods' to circumvent anti-dumping measures.
 - I recently spoke before the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry as part of its inquiry into the effectiveness of Australia's

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anti-circumvention framework. I am interested to see the outcomes from this inquiry, so the Commission can more effectively target and address circumvention activities.

- The Commission has developed application forms which are available on the Commission's website with accompanying guidelines to assist applicants prepare an application for a circumvention inquiry into the slight modification of goods.
- I believe that the range of reforms introduced by the Bills will strengthen Australia's anti-dumping system. While there is still a bit of work to do for the Commission, the implementation process will not impact directly on any ongoing investigations or cause any unnecessary delays to investigation timeframes.
- I look forward to receiving your questions.