



Thursday, 9 April 2015

The Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Toni Matulick,

The Australian Industry Group welcomes the opportunity to submit our views on the Customs Amendment (Anti-Dumping Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2015 and the Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Amendment Bill 2015.

Anti-dumping actions and countervailing measures are specifically sanctioned by the WTO. The Anti-Dumping Agreement allows countries to take action against imports from countries allegedly exporting at dumped prices. In Australia, anti-dumping investigations are carried out by qualified investigators in an independent context.

It is in everyone's interests to ensure that local industry, importers and customers have confidence in both the process and the decisions of the Anti-Dumping Commission. Ai Group supports any moves to provide companies with timely and transparent decisions. However, we call on the Government to undertake a review of the effectiveness of these changes within twelve months of implementation to ensure they are operating as intended.

As the host of the pilot scheme - International Trade Remedies Advisory Service - we are pleased that additional resources are being directed to expanding this scheme and that SME's will continue to receive technical advice on the complex rules of anti-dumping.

With any regulatory scheme, it is essential that Government receive regular updates from industry to ensure that the system continues to be effective in a dynamic business environment. For this reason, we support the retention of an industry forum, currently called the International Trade Remedies Forum. The membership of such a forum should be reduced to eight industry and one union participant, as follows:

- Four companies (two local producers and two importers)
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Business Council of Australia
- Australian Council of Trade Unions

This group should generally meet twice a year, or additionally if necessary, preferably with an Industry representative as Chair and a Department of Industry representative as Deputy Chair. Scope should exist to invite other expert advisers on an as needs basis.

A strong, effective and fair Anti-Dumping system must meet the needs of all parties and we support these changes, whilst meeting the regulatory requirements expected by the Australian Parliament.

Should the Committee require additional information, please contact Louise McGrath

Yours sincerely

Innes Willox

Chief Executive