

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Restricting the procurement of public goods that are subject to dumping investigations

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 56-57)

QUESTION No.: BI-33

Senator KETTER: As part of this procurement policy, should there be a provision in the rules that restricts governments from buying dumped products?

Ms Beauchamp: That is a decision for the government. As we heard from the Anti-Dumping Commission yesterday, we have got fairly robust anti-dumping arrangements in place in Australia.

Senator KETTER: That is true. One would think that governments should be acting in the best interests of the country. There is a question of whether buying dumped products is something that governments should be doing. Perhaps you could take that on notice?

Ms Beauchamp: I will take that on notice. Is it anything specifically you are referring to?

Senator KETTER: I do not have any specific examples, but I think there are plenty of examples of dumping going on that we should be wary of. Are there any other jurisdictions that you are aware of that restrict the public procurement of goods that are subject to dumping investigations?

Ms Beauchamp: Sorry, could you repeat that?

Senator KETTER: Are there any other jurisdictions that you are aware of that prohibit the public procurement of goods that are subject to a dumping investigation?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice, unless Mr Lawson can assist.

Mr Lawson: If a product has been dumped or found to have been dumped by the Anti-Dumping Commission, then dumping duties are applied and those dumping duties are designed to prevent damage to the competitors of those dumped products. In the case of allegations of dumping, most governments would not—

Senator KETTER: I am talking about the incidence of public procurement of dumped products.

Mr Lawson: Yes. If they are dumped products, then they would be subject dumping duties through the -dumping process to prevent damage to Australian producers. If there been found to be dumped, dumping duties are applied and they are allowed to be sold in the Australian market. It would be a matter for government policy as to whether procurement policy wanted to go to any concerns about that, but that would open up a wide range of foreign trade agreement type—

Senator KETTER: So the department is not looking at this issue as to whether or not procurement should include dumped products?

Ms Beauchamp: I think we comply with all of our legal obligations. As I said previously, I will take that on notice, because I am not aware of any specific issues where we would be purchasing dumped products.

ANSWER

The Anti-Dumping Commission determines remedies for dumped products in accordance with Australian legislation, which is consistent with World Trade Organization requirements. Therefore, Commonwealth procurement policies are not relevant to issues of dumping.