

1996-97

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Customs Tariff Amendment Bill
(No. 5) 1997**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by the Hon. Simon Crean, MP

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 1997

OUTLINE

The purpose of the bill is to alter certain provisions of the Customs Tariff Act which deal with the tariff on textiles, clothing and footwear.

At present the Act provides for a progressive reduction in certain rates of tariff until 2000. They contain no provisions as to how long those rates will apply.

The purpose of this bill is to provide a level of certainty to both employers and employees in Australia's textile, clothing and footwear industries by providing that the tariffs should remain at the levels reached by 1 July 2000.

This measure is a key element in the future development of Australia's textiles, clothing and footwear industry. It will allow the industries some degree of stability so that they can consolidate over the period to the year 2005. Labor Party policy provides that a comprehensive review of the industry's position be undertaken in 2004, and the retention of the import credit scheme, modified as necessary with our

international trading obligations, so that decisions can then be made in light of this review as to the appropriate level of tariffs to apply from 1 January 2005.

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 1997

NOTES ON SECTIONS

**Section 1 — Short title — Customs Tariff
Amendment Bill (No. 5) 1997 .**

**Section 2 — Commencement — The section
provides for the Act to commence on the day on
which it receives the Royal Assent.**

**Section 3 — Schedules — This section
provides that the Customs Tariff Act 1995 is
amended as set out in Schedule 1.**

**Schedule 1 — The items in the schedule all
provide that whatever rates of tariff applying at 1
July 2000 will continue to apply until at least 31
December 2004.**

