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**DEFERRAL OF GST ON IMPORTED GOODS**

Section 33-15 of the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (the GST Act) provides that amounts of GST on taxable importations are to be paid by the importer to the Commonwealth:

1. at the same time, at the same place, and in the same manner, as customs duty is payable on the goods in question (or would be payable if the goods were subject to customs duty); or
2. in the circumstances specified in the regulations, within such further time specified in the regulations, and at the place and in the manner specified in the regulations.

The regulations will allow for deferral of payments of GST on taxable importations to coincide with payments of net amounts of GST. Details of a proposed GST deferral scheme developed jointly by the Australian Customs Service (Customs) and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) are attached. The deferral scheme is intended to commence on 1 July 2000 at the same time that GST is introduced. The ATO will invite importers to apply to participate in the scheme early in 2000. In the meantime interested parties are invited to comment on the proposal. Persons wishing to contribute their views are asked to submit them in writing to the addressees below by close of business Friday 5 November 1999.

J H Jeffery National Director Commercial Division For the Chief Executive Officer 11 October 1999