Australian Customs Notice 1999 77

**CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOs. 3 AND 4 (1999)**

On 21 July 1999, Customs Tariff Notice No. 1 was published in Commonwealth *Gazette* GN29 notifying the creation of Additional Note 1 in Chapter 57 of Schedule 3 to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*. For the purposes of Chapter 57, the new note defines "floor coverings" as including all mats, rugs, and similar goods.

Customs Tariff Proposal No. 3 (1999) was introduced into the House of Representatives on 25 August 1999 validating this change which came into operation on 22 July 1999.

Tariff reprint page Chapter 57/1 (R.1) was issued in conjunction with this change.

Customs Tariff Proposal No. 4 (1999) was tabled in the House of Representatives on 2 September 1999. It reinstates the 5% customs rate of duty on:

certain drawing, marking-out and mathematical calculating instruments of subheading 9017.20; certain rules of wood or plastic and steel tape measures of subheading 9017.80;

certain gas, electrical and liquid meters of subheadings 9028.10, 9028.20 and 9028.30; and

certain machines for balancing mechanical parts and electrical test benches of subheadings 9031.10 and 9031.20.

Certain rates of customs duty on goods classified to tariff headings 9013 to 9033 in Schedule 3 to the Customs Tariff were reduced to free on 1 September 1998 following the implementation of the recommendations of the Industry Commission's report on the Medical and Scientific Industries.

Some Australian manufacturers of non-medical and non-scientific goods covered by these reductions informed the Government that this removal of tariff assistance had affected their manufacturing viability and profitability. In light of these representations, the 5% rate of duty was reinstated on the above goods from 3 September 1999.

Tariff reprint pages issued in relation to this change are Schedule 3 - 90/13 (R.3), 90/19 (R.3), 90/21 (R.5) and 90/23 (R.7). A concordance of tariff subheadings affected by these changes is attached to this Notice.

Any queries on these changes should be addressed to Ray Banvill on (02) 6275 6516. Debbie Bates National Manager Tariff for Chief Executive Officer 11 November 1999