AUSTRALIA UNDERTAKES FURTHER IMPORT LIBERALIZATION; ALLOEasy DISMANTLES DOLLAR DISCRIMINATION

The Australian Minister for Trade, Mr. McEwen, announced on 29 November that in pursuance of the Government's policy of removing import restrictions in an orderly way, the import rate would be increased by an additional £25m. per year from 1 December. "Further progress in the dismantling of remaining dollar discrimination would also be made", he said.

"The Government had made this decision", the Minister said, "after a full review of Australia's balance-of-payments prospects. As usual, in making this review, the Government had before it the views of the Consultative Committee on Import Policy.

"The additional £25m. of imports meant that since August last relaxations have been made permitting an increase in imports of £75m. a year. These imports, a large part of which were equipment and materials, would make a major contribution to the continued rapid development taking place in Australia.

"The further removal of discrimination against imports of dollar goods, which was being introduced from 1 December, would mean that importers now had, except for motor vehicles and a few consumer goods, complete freedom to use their licences on any country. Even for these goods existing provisions permit substantial imports from the dollar area."

The Minister said that it was intended to remove the remaining discrimination within a relatively short period.

In the case of motor vehicles, the Minister pointed out that discrimination against dollar vehicles had been operating since 1936. So that the trade might have as much advance notice as possible he was taking the unusual step of announcing that discrimination against dollar vehicles would be removed from 1 October 1960.

The Minister also said that in addition to removal of discrimination on timber from 1 December, a major change in the licensing of timber would be made next year. From 1 April, timber would be licensed on a Replacement basis. Concurrent with this announcement, the Minister said he would refer timber again to the Tariff Board so that the Board could review the position in the light of the changed competitive situation which the virtual removal of import restriction would create.
In describing details of the changes which would be effective from 1 December, the Minister said that the increases would be spread almost right across the whole field of imports. In particular, the following important changes would be made:

**Exemptions**

16 additional items involving trade of about £2m. per year would be added to these items for which no import licence was now required. All items were materials for industry.

**Replacement**

48 additional items involving trade worth over £6m. a year would be added to the import replacement system. The items concerned were mainly components and materials for industry.

**Administrative Category**

The major part of the additional £25 million would be used to increase allocations for materials and equipment licensed in this Category. There was a noticeable strengthening of demand for these goods.

**Category B and Category A**

Quotas for Category B would be increased by five per cent; a few Category A items would be transferred to Category B with a five per cent increase and most of the remaining Category A items would also be increased by five per cent.

Full details of the products affected by these changes are given in the Annex to this press release.
ANNEX

Additional Items to be Licensed on a Replacement Basis from 1 December 1959

Primary batteries and parts therefor for railway signalling and use in mines
Parts for spirit irons and petrol and oil domestic heating and lighting appliances
Parts and materials for the manufacture and repair of elevators
Train lighting and train air conditioning equipment
Replacement parts for food processing machinery
Replacement parts for woodworking machinery
Parts and materials for the manufacture of picture tubes for T.V. receivers
Materials for the manufacture of artificial flowers
Bookbinders' cloth
Card cloth for the manufacture of card clothing
Industrial protective clothing
Canvas and duck
Corrugated sheet and galvanized sheet
Plates for engravers and lithographers
Flexible metal tubes etc.
Iron and steel tubes, pipes and fittings
Railway and tramway materials
Shafting
Barbed wire, wire and wire netting
Sheep shears
Other garden and field spraying machines
Steam engine indicators etc.
Electrical human hair clipping machines
Laboratory heating mantles and testing sieves
Gas meters and parts
Fencing posts
Antimony oxide and star antimony
Plain clear sheet glass
Petroleum refining and blending chemicals
Copper sulphate
Cinematographs
Canvas fire hose
Condenser tissue and tracing paper
Paper and boards for photographic emulsions
Tissue paper not gummed for cigarettes
Parchment
Flash guns and projectors
Fish hooks, floats, nets, etc.
Saddlors' webs etc.
Additional Items to be Exempt from Licensing from 1 December 1959

Calico for bag making
Hatters' fur
Meat wraps
Nickel alloy blocks, etc.
Beryllium copper ingots
Magnesium alloy ingots
Thermo couple wire
Bi-metallic strip
Beryllium copper strip
Fire engines
Empty tanks
Mineral turpentine
Petroleum, shale and mineral lubricating oils not in bulk
Dye intermediates, auxiliaries and assistants
Nickel oxide sinter
Chlorinated rubber
Antimony ore
Type metal

Items to be Transferred to Category "B" from 1 December 1959

Household knitting machines, clothes dryers, etc.
Dates
Sheeting
Cotton and other bed tickings
Knitted or lockstitched fabrics (Simplex) for the manufacture of women's dress gloves
Piece goods of woven man-made fibres in the grey for use in the manufacture of printed piece goods
Snap and turnbutton fasteners
Boric acid packed for retail sale
Gas bulbs of a type suitable for the production of whipped cream

Items on which Dollar Ceiling will be removed

Cigars
Canned fruit and vegetables
Apparel
Parasols, umbrellas and sunshades
Sheets, pillowcases, handkerchiefs, towels and the like
Lawnmowers
Clothes washing machines
Refrigerators
Popcorn and coin operated vending machines
Household food mincers and choppers
Electric and gas heating and cooking appliances

MORE
Items on which Dollar Ceiling will be removed (continued)

Gas water heaters
Wireless and television sets
Furniture
Fancy goods (e.g. cigarette cases, serviette rings)
Toys
Spectacles, sunglasses and goggles
Wallpaper
Stationery and greeting cards
Handbags, purses, wallets
Baskets, travel bags, suitcases
Vacuum cleaners, carpet sweepers
Sensitized film
Footwear

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