

From: Roger Simpson <roger@panpac.biz>
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2014 12:42 PM
To: CARROLL Rory
Cc: FARRANT Kim; HATCHER Emma; STOCKWELL Julian;
Drew.Elsbury@cockburncement.com.au; Vince.Valastro@cockburncement.com.au
Subject: Quicklime from Thailand
Attachments: Image210214011746.pdf

Hi Rory,

Further to my email on Wednesday (19/2), we certainly hope that the government's desire for a stronger anti-dumping regime per the attached article in "The Australian" on 12 February 2014 impacts on the Commission's handling of this case.

Regards,
Roger

THE AUSTRALIAN

Coalition tightens dumping laws

DAVID CROWE THE AUSTRALIAN FEBRUARY 12, 2014 12:00AM

TRADE measures are being prepared to defend Australian companies against cheap imports as Tony Abbott backs calls to toughen existing laws despite the risk of retaliation from other countries.

The federal government is working on the stronger regime to punish overseas suppliers who dump their products on the Australian market at below cost, sharpening measures that would push up the retail price of the imports.

The moves mark a shift in the government's internal debate over help for food producers such as SPC Ardmona, as the Prime Minister rules out financial grants

but accepts the case for trade assistance.

Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane is working on a package of "anti-dumping" measures that include legislation to reverse the onus of proof on foreign suppliers, speeding up penalties against them.

The Australian has been told the work is under way separately from a looming decision to penalise tomato importers found to have dumped their products here, in a conclusion by the government's Anti-Dumping Authority last week.

In a shift in tone in the dispute over SPC, Mr Abbott yesterday applauded the company

for starting work to improve its workplace after he earlier named its union agreement as a factor in refusing its plea for \$25 million in federal aid.

Mr Abbott also sought to ease the Coalition's internal tensions by using question time to congratulate Liberal backbencher Sharman Stone -- his most vocal critic on the issue -- for standing up for SPC.

Trade advocates are opposed to reversing the onus of proof for overseas suppliers that do not co-operate in dumping investigations, seeing it as a form of trade protection because it would assume the companies were guilty.

Dr Stone spoke out against the federal cabinet decision on SPC yesterday in the closed-door meeting of Coalition MPs in Canberra, where Queensland Nationals senator Ron Boswell also praised the company and warned that if it closed, it could not be replaced.

Prominent Victorian Liberal Kelly O'Dwyer backed the Prime Minister but called for action to reduce costs for producers, such as looking at the renewable energy target that is blamed for pushing up electricity prices -- triggering applause from her colleagues.

In a crucial response, Mr Abbott defended the cabinet decision in yesterday's party meeting but agreed with Dr Stone's criticism that the anti-dumping regime was too weak.

Mr Macfarlane's spokeswoman said the government was working to make sure the regime was "as robust and comprehensive as possible" , and consistent with the World Trade Organisation's requirements.

Dr Stone told The Australian late yesterday it was "gratifying" that Mr Macfarlane was now urgently toughening the regime, and she dismissed the fears about retaliation from trading partners.

"Let's test it and see -- if we are the poor little pathetic scared people who always worry that someone might say 'Just a minute', then let's forget our anti-dumping regime and continue as before," Dr Stone said.

"But if we're going to be robust in making sure that we do stick by the rules, if we introduce reversal of the onus of proof measures that are consistent with the WTO, then I say 'Bring it on'."

Labor attacked the idea of changing the onus of proof when it was in government, warning that

it would flout global trade agreements.