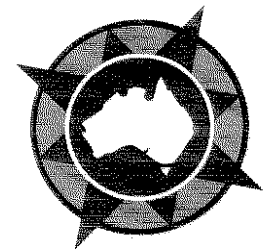
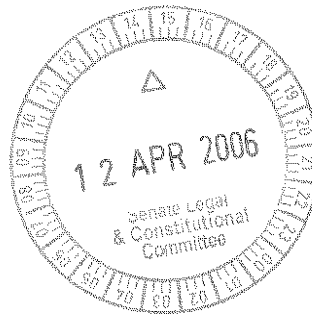


Ref No:
10 April 2006

The Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



CBFCA
A U S T R A L I A
Communicate. Innovate

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Customs Legislation Amendment (Border Compliance and Other Measures) Bill 2006

The Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia Inc (CBFCA) notes the Customs Legislation Amendment (Border Compliance and Other Measures) Bill 2006 in its Explanatory Memorandum (the Bill) and in particular the provisions relating to the Accredited Client Program (the Program). As to the Program, the CBFCA has been an active participant and supporter of accredited arrangements since the concept was first put forward as part of the Cargo Management Reengineering package in 2001. The CBFCA sees particular merit in the Program and in September 2001 provided a discussion paper to Customs on an Accredited Customs Broker Program which evolved out of the *Audit Program Guidelines* published by Customs in March 2001.

From 2001 until 2003 the CBFCA has been part of the consultation process between industry and Customs on accreditation for both importers and service providers, and provided further input to Customs as part of the Working Group convened to review the concept (as referenced in the Press in April 2003). A copy of the submission to Customs on this issue is attached for the interest of Committee members.

Since meetings between Customs and industry in June 2003, the accreditation issues has, from a CBFCA perspective, remained dormant and the CBFCA was surprised to note the Program re-emerging in the Bill. The Program as foreshadowed, in the opinion of the CBFCA, is unrealistic in efficiency or effectiveness for importers in general, and service providers in particular. From the CBFCA's perspective consultation on key issues of the Bill with the CBFCA has been non existent and the CBFCA queries the rationale of a program which gives little, if any, benefit to the majority of importers and little cognizance of benefits to service providers.

Within an international context the CBFCA can only surmise that the Program may in some way give support to the Customs commitment to the World Customs Organisation *Framework Standards to Secure and*

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Facilitate Global Trade. However not being party to any discussions in relation to the new Program or its objectives, the CBFCFA can only surmise the rationale for the Program. The CBFCFA would have thought, on behalf of service providers and their clients, appropriate consultation on the Bill would have been a key aspect in developing a Program which would provide for importers and/or service providers improved Customs and other regulatory agency processes.

The CBFCFA would be happy to meet with the Committee to further address these issues.

Kind regards



STEPHEN J MORRIS
Executive Director