

Tariff (Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership) Bill

28 November 2005

Attorney-General

LEGAL ADVICE

CONSISTENCY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT 1990:
TARIFF (TRANS-PACIFIC STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP) BILL

1. We have considered whether the Tariff (Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership) Bill (PCO 6787/2) (the "Bill") is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. We understand that the Bill is likely to be considered by the Cabinet Business Committee at its meeting on Monday, 5 December 2005.
2. The Bill proposes to amend the Tariff Act 1988 to enable the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (the "Agreement") signed by Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore to be brought into force. Each party to the Agreement is obliged to phase-out duties on goods imported from other parties. The preferential tariffs proposed in this Bill will apply to goods originating from Brunei Darussalam and from Chile. Goods imported into New Zealand from Singapore are already exempt under the New Zealand-Singapore Closer Economic Partnership Act 2002.
3. We have concluded that the Bill appears to be consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

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