



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 343
15 October 1974

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION REPORT - FOOD PROCESSING MACHINERY, ETC.

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that the Government has accepted, subject to international commitments, the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission in its report on food processing machinery.

The report covers a wide range of machinery used in bread grain milling; for the working of cereals or dried leguminous vegetables; in sugar manufacturing; in brewing, confectionery or chocolate manufacture; and the preparation of meat, fish, fruit or vegetables.

The Government's decision will mean that minimum rates of duty will apply to machinery for working bread grains, cereals or dried leguminous vegetables and for the production of pasta products; a General rate of 15% will apply to machinery for sugar manufacturing, brewing, and confectionery and chocolate manufacture; and a General rate of 25% will apply to other food processing machinery under reference.

In the main the decision will mean a reduction in the existing rates of duty, but for some goods there will be a slight increase in protection for imports from Britain, a major source of supply.

Implementation of the Commission's recommendations would have little effect on the structure of industry and the employment involved because the industry enjoys a degree of local advantage.

Mr Whitlam also said that details of the Customs tariff changes arising from the Government's decision will be announced when administrative arrangements to implement them have been finalised.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.