

system of external appeals, open to public scrutiny and capable of determining on their merits appeals against the large number of administrative decisions which are made, far outweigh the difficulties that one or two decisions (not in any event necessarily wrong) may cause to the government. The large number of cases appealed to the AAT which are conceded by departments and authorities before the AAT makes a decision is an indication of the salutary effect of an external system of review. Moreover, Admin Review believes that the system of external review by the AAT has led in many areas of administration to an improvement in primary decision making and a greater attention to the legislation under which decision makers act.

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Discussion paper on anti-dumping

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The secretariat of the Council, together with a committee of the Council and a consultant, has recently prepared a discussion paper on Stage 3 of the project on review of customs and excise decisions concerning anti-dumping and countervailing duties. That paper has been widely circulated and the Council invites submissions on:

the appropriateness of the suggestions made in the paper that particular classes of decisions not currently subject to review on the merits should be so reviewable; and

whether the AAT is the appropriate forum for the review.

Copies of the discussion paper may be obtained from the Director of Research (see front page) and the Council would be pleased to receive submissions from any interested person or organisation.

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New Zealand developments

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Among recent developments in New Zealand in relation to public law have been the abolition of the Law Reform Committees and the establishment of a permanent Law Commission in their place. The President of the Law