

# Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced By Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020

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## Submission to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
[fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:fadt.sen@aph.gov.au)

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pleased to make a submission on the Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced By Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020.

We understand the intent of the Bill is to protect and assist the Uyghur community in China.

We consider that the matters underlying the Bill should be included in the terms of reference for the scheduled review of the Modern Slavery Act next year rather than the Bill.

We have several concerns about the Bill which we want to draw to the attention of the Committee:

- Australia has already implemented the Modern Slavery Act which encourages importers to consider a wide range of human rights abuse issues in a wider scope than proposed in this Bill. The Modern Slavery Act is due for its first review in 2022 and we consider that review to be the appropriate opportunity to address the intent of the Bill.
- The Bill only considers issues associated with one group of peoples when there are many groups around the world about whom concerns have been raised. The Modern Slavery Act is the appropriate vehicle to manage these matters comprehensively, rather than in an ad hoc way for each group and circumstance.
- Should the Bill enter into force, we foresee significant difficulties for business and regulators in identifying the products emanating from the region in question.
- The Bill, should it enter into force, could lead to the lessening of economic opportunity for the Uyghur community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to follow up any of the points raised in this submission, please contact ACCI's Director, Trade and International Affairs, Bryan Clark at [bryan.clark@australianchamber.com.au](mailto:bryan.clark@australianchamber.com.au)

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Telephone | 02 6270 8000 Email | [info@australianchamber.com.au](mailto:info@australianchamber.com.au) Website | [www.australianchamber.com.au](http://www.australianchamber.com.au)

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