Wheat Industry Fund Levy Collection Bill 1989

Date Introduced: 13 April 1989
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To establish the machinery for the collection of the levy imposed by the Wheat Industry Fund Levy Bill 1989.

Background
Refer to the Digest for the Wheat Marketing Bill 1989.

Main Provisions
The Bill will operate from 1 July 1989 (clause 2).

The levy on wheat will be payable quarterly or such longer period as set by regulations (clause 5).

The purchaser or receiver of wheat will be liable to pay the levy and may deduct an equal amount from payments to growers (clause 5).

A penalty levy, calculated at the rate of 20% per annum of the original levy, will be imposed where the levy has not been paid on time (clause 7).

The Minister or an authorised person may remit a late payment penalty of up to $1500 (clause 8).

Where there has been an overpayment of the levy, the Commonwealth is to refund the amount overpaid (clause 10).

An authorised person will have power to enter premises with the consent of the occupier, or with a warrant, to search and take stock of wheat or goods produced from wheat and examine or copy any relevant documents. A person obstructing or hindering an authorised person will be liable to a maximum penalty of $1000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both (clause 12).

It will be an offence to fail to furnish a return or provide information, without reasonable excuse, required under this Bill or the regulations. The maximum penalty for breach of this provision will be a fine of $1000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both for individuals, and $5000 for corporations (clause 15).
Clause 19 will provide for a review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal of an administrative decision which refuses to remit a late payment penalty.

The Governor-General may make regulations, including regulations prescribing penalties not exceeding $500 for individuals or $2500 for corporations (clause 21).

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

26 April 1989

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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