Grape Research Levy Amendment Bill 1989

Date Introduced: 25 October 1989
House: House of Representatives
Portfolio: Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
Increase the maximum rate of levy which may be prescribed under the Grape Research Levy Act 1986.

Background
The Grape Research Levy Act 1986 (the Principal Act) imposes a levy on fresh and dried grapes and grape juice (prescribed goods) delivered to an establishment for processing, including for the manufacture of a beverage or other product, canning or extraction of juice. The levy is payable by the grape grower. The proceeds of the levy are paid into the Grape and Wine Research Fund which is administered by the Grape and Wine Research Council, which was established under the Rural Industries Research Act 1985. Levy funds attract matching Commonwealth contributions up to 0.5% of the gross value of production of the industry. The levy is not payable on prescribed goods delivered to an establishment which processes less than 20 tonnes of fresh grapes, or fresh grape equivalent, per year.

The Principal Act sets the maximum rate of levy which may be prescribe at $0.50 per tonne of fresh grapes, or fresh grape equivalent, delivered to a processing establishment. In the Second Reading Speech to the Bill, the Minister states that the Winegrape Growers’ Council of Australia has requested that the maximum rate of levy which may be prescribed be increased to $2.00 per tonne, to allow a phased increase in grape industry research funding.

Also refer to the Digest for the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Bill 1989.

Main Provisions
The Bill will operate from 1 January 1990 (clause 2).

Clause 3 will increase the maximum rate of levy which may be prescribed from $0.05 per tonne to $2.00 per tonne the maximum rate of levy which may be prescribed.