Digest of Bill

Purpose
To provide the machinery for the collection of the levy imposed by the Marine Navigation Levy Bill 1989.

Background

Main Provisions
'Sea-going ship' is defined as a ship which, in the course of a voyage to or from an Australian port, passes a Commonwealth marine navigational aid (clause 3).

The owner, master, or agent of a sea-going ship will be liable to pay the levy, unless the ship has been exempted (clause 6).

Clause 7 deals with when the levy is payable. Ships trading between Australian ports will be required to pay the levy every quarter. Ships trading between Australian and overseas ports will be liable to pay the levy on arrival at an Australian port. In the latter case, the ship will only be required to pay the levy if over 3 months have passed since the levy was last paid. No ship will be required to pay the levy more than 4 times a year.

Clause 10 provides for the detention, by the Customs Service, of a ship for non-payment of the levy.

An agent who has paid the levy for a sea-going ship may deduct an equal amount from any money received for the owner in respect of the ship (clause 11).

The Governor-General may make regulations, including for the refund or remission of the levy (clause 12).