Laying Chicken Levy Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 24 February 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To establish, in conjunction with the Laying Chicken Levy Collection Bill 1988, a standby research levy mechanism for the egg industry.

Background
Producer contributions to egg industry research are currently raised through a levy on hen quotas which are administered under State and Territory regulations. Continuation of the arrangements depends, therefore, on the quota system remaining in operation. A disruption to the quota system would render these measures inoperative. The February 1988 meeting of Australian Agricultural Council was advised that there was a possibility that hen quotas would be phased out in Victoria.

The Laying Chicken Levy Bill 1988 and the Laying Chicken Levy Collection Bill 1988 are being introduced as a precaution against a breakdown of present arrangements. They provide an alternative mechanism which could be introduced with minimum delay by proclamation. The proposed arrangements are similar to the Chicken Meat Research Scheme with which the industry is familiar.

Main Provisions
Clause 2 provides for the Bill to be made operative by proclamation on or after a date recommended by the Australian Council of Egg Producers. Clause 4 imposes a levy on laying chickens hatched after the Bill is enacted which is payable by hatchery proprietors (Clause 8).

Exemptions to the levy are provided for hatcheries producing less than 1000 laying chickens in a particular financial year (Clause 5) and for chickens which die or are destroyed within 48 hours of hatching (Clause 6).

The Act sets the maximum levy at 10 cents per laying bird (Clause 7) with the operative levy to be set by regulation at a rate not exceeding that recommended by the Australian Council of Egg Producers.