Triticale Levy Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 2 November 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To impose a levy on triticale produced in Australia to support research into the industry.

Background
Triticale is the name of a grain developed by crossing wheat and rye. Significant commercial production of triticale commenced in the 1970s. The area sown in Australia in 1986 was 148 000 ha and this yielded 270 000 tonnes. Most of the triticale grown in Australia is used as animal feed, mainly for pigs and poultry. Some triticale is exported from Western Australia to the Middle East but most is used on the domestic market. In 1983 only 50 tonnes of the 188 000 tonnes produced was used for human consumption. Present uses for human consumption are as flakes in muesli, for flour and whole grains in speciality breads and the manufacture of triticale macaroni. It has been claimed that triticale has an advantage over breadwheats in highland areas, in acid soils and in areas where drought tolerance is needed. However, there is no evidence that triticale varieties in Australia survive drier conditions better than wheat or that they are resistant to stem rusts. Varieties of triticale have been shown to do well on heavy and in acidic soils.¹

The funds raised by this Bill will be used to finance research into the triticale industry. The initial rate of the levy will be set at $1.00 per tonne, although this rate may be varied up to a maximum of $2.00 per tonne. This rate was recommended by the industry and will be equivalent to approximately 0.5% of the gross value of production of triticale. This is the maximum level of industry contribution to research which the Commonwealth will match on a dollar – for – dollar basis. Levies will be paid into the Australian Special Rural Research Fund. The Research Scheme will be administered by the Australian Special Research Council. It is estimated that initially the levy will raise approximately $160 000.²

Main Provisions
A levy will be imposed on the delivery of triticale, other than for storage on the grower’s behalf, and where triticale is processed by the owner (clause 5).
The rate of levy will be $1.00 per tonne or such other rate (up to a maximum of $2.00) as is set by regulation (clause 6).

The levy will be payable by the grower (clause 7).

The levy will not be payable where the grower delivers less than the leviable weight (15 tonnes) in a year or where growers use the triticale for domestic purposes or on their own farms (clause 8).

References

For further information, if required, contact the Science, Technology and Environment Group.

11 January 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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