Egg Industry Research (Hen Quota) Levy Bill 1987

Date introduced: 18 March 1987
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Digest of Bill

Purpose

To provide a new mechanism for securing producer contributions towards research sponsored by the egg industry with the assistance of matching Commonwealth grants.

Background

The arrangements of the Bill will supersede the levy mechanism whereby egg producers contributed towards research through a small component of the levy payable under the Poultry Industry Levy Act 1965. The levy was collected to equalise the impact on individual producers of losses incurred in disposing of egg surpluses. As the egg surplus has been reduced significantly in recent years, the legislation was amended to end the levy on 20 June 1987. The operative rate of levy is to be fixed by regulation below the maximum and an operative rate of three to four cents per hen would provide funds comparable with the currently received under the hen levy.

The only effect of the new levy will be to enable the existing scheme for sponsorship of egg research to continue after the loss of the present levy mechanism on 30 June 1987. Accordingly, the measure involves no new financial commitments for the Commonwealth or the industry.

Main Provisions

A levy is to be imposed on the quota of hens which a producer holds under a licence issued by State or Territory authorities (clause 8).

A maximum levy rate of 10 cents per hen is provided for in the Bill, with the operative level to be set by regulation (clause 10).

The levy will be discontinued if any State abandons the hen quota system (clause 12).