Horticultural Policy Council Bill 1987

Date Introduced: 18 September 1987
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. Barry Jones, M.P., Minister representing the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To establish a Horticultural Policy Council to facilitate the development of comprehensive policies for horticultural industries.

Background
Refer to the Digest of the Australian Horticultural Corporation Bill.

Main Provisions
Horticultural products are defined in clause 3 to mean fruits, vegetables, nuts, nursery products, cut flowers and foliage and products in a prescribed class.

The Council will be established by clause 4 and its objective will be to facilitate the development by the Commonwealth of sound, consistent and comprehensive policies on Australian horticultural industries, through their participation in policy formulation (clause 5).

The functions of the Council will include to inquire into and report to the Minister on matters affecting horticultural industries; developing recommendations, guidelines and plans for safeguarding or furthering the industries' interests; and consulting and co-operating with people, bodies and authorities on matters affecting industries (clause 6).

Clause 7 will give the Council the power to do all things necessary or convenient for the performance of its functions.

The constitution and meetings of the Council are provided for in clauses 9 to 22. The Council is to consist of a Chairperson, five growers' and producers' representatives, two producers' representatives, one marketing representative, two nominees from each of the Australian Agricultural Council and the ACTU, the Chairperson of the Australian Horticultural Corporation and the Chairperson of the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation (clause 9). The remainder of the provisions contain the usual provisions relating to appointments, remuneration, resignations etc.
The Council will be able to establish an executive committee and other committees to assist it in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers (clause 23), and may establish working groups to provide advice (clause 24).

The services of officers or employees of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy may be made available to the Council by arrangement with the Secretary (clause 25).

Clause 27 will provide for the delegation of the Council's powers to a committee, a member or employee of the Council.

The Council is to submit an annual report to the Minister for tabling in Parliament (clause 28).

The Governor-General will be able to make regulations consistent with this Bill (clause 29). The regulations may provide for the making of orders by the Minister, excluding orders prescribing penalties (clause 30).

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

6 October 1987

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