HONEY LEVY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1985

Date Introduced: 27 February 1985
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Honey Levy Act (No. 1) 1962, the Honey Levy Act (No. 2) 1962 and the Honey Levy Collection Act 1962 in order to allow for annual, rather than monthly, payment of honey levies by honey producers.

Background

The Australian honey industry is comprised of three main sectors namely, honey production, honey packing and retailing, and a number of service sectors including queen bee breeding, beeswax processing and the manufacture of beekeeping equipment. Honey producers may either supply honey to packers for processing and retail distribution, or pack and distribute their own product. Most of the honey is sold through dealers. The Australian Honey Board is responsible for the export of honey.

A levy is imposed by the Honey Levy Act (No. 1) 1962 on honey produced and sold in Australia, and by the Honey Levy Act (No. 2) 1962 on honey used in the manufacture of other goods when more than 50 kgs of honey per month is sold and/or used in the production of other goods. All honey sold on the export market is subject to an export charge, imposed by the Honey Export Charge Act 1973. The Honey Levy Collection Act 1962 and the Honey Export Charge Collection Act 1973 provide the machinery for the collection of the levy and export charge. The funds derived from the levy and charge are used to finance the operations of the Australian Honey Board and to provide funds for research administered by the Honey Research Committee.

Currently, both honey producers and dealers are required to submit a levy return and pay the levy due each month, i.e. there are over 300 returns per month. Of this total, 26 are dealer returns and provide over $280,000 in levies, the balance of about $22,000 being paid by the remainder. The Government considers that, as it is
expensive to administer such payments, this Bill will alleviate the paperwork burden as well as reduce costs.

Outline

As from 1 January 1986, this Bill will allow producers to submit a single annual return in lieu of monthly returns. The current monthly exemption limits of 50 kgs will be expressed in annual terms for producers (600 kgs). Levy payments will be due on 28 February of the following year. Honey dealers will continue to lodge monthly returns.

Main Provisions

Clauses 4 and 6 provide for the exemption limits to be expressed in annual terms (600 kgs) for the Honey Levy Act (No. 1) 1962 and the Honey Levy Act (No. 2) 1962, respectively.

Clause 8 inserts a definition of "prescribed sale" into section 3 of the Honey Levy Collection Act 1962 to mean a sale by a producer, other than a sale made to, or through, a honey dealer.

Clause 9 provides that the levy is payable annually by a producer on 28 February in the following year that the honey was sold or used by the producer.

For further information, if required, contact:

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References