Date Introduced: 9 May 1985
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. B. Cohen, M.P., Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment

Purpose

To amend the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975 so as to give effect to a grant of the land in Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mount Olga) National Park to an Aboriginal Land Trust, and to implement an agreement whereby the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land are to lease the area back to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife for use as a national park.

Background

The Bill is one of two Bills which amend two principal Acts so as to give effect to the above purpose.

The other Bill is the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Bill 1985 (other Bill). The two Bills are closely related and are to be read together.

For a helpful and comprehensive background on the history and development of Uluru National Park, refer to the Bills Digest on the other Bill.

Outline and Main Provisions

A concise explanation of the provisions of the Bill is contained in the explanatory memorandum.

Section 3 of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975 (the Principal Act) is amended by the Bill. A "prescribed park or reserve" is defined as the Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mount Olga) National Park, and any other park or reserve declared by the regulations to be a prescribed park or reserve (sub-clause 3(a)).

Where there is an area of Aboriginal land within a prescribed park or reserve and the Minister and the relevant Aboriginal Land Council agree that a Board be established in
respect of that park or reserve, the Minister shall establish the Board by notice published in the Gazette (clause 10). The functions of the Board and procedures relating to it are also outlined by the Bill.

The Bill amends section 11 of the Principal Act and requires the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (the Director) and the Board to prepare a plan of management as soon as possible after the Board is established. The Bill also contains important provisions relating to the resolution of disagreements which may arise between the Director and the Board with regard to the preparation and implementation of a plan of management (sub-clause 6(g) and clause 9).

Several minor amendments to the Principal Act are proposed by clause 11, and are contained in the schedule to the Bill.

For further information, if required, contact:

23 May 1985
Education and Welfare Group
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