To provide for the appointment of two additional persons with special qualifications to the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation (ADFC), and to make minor amendments.

Background

The ADFC was established by the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act 1978 (the Principal Act). Its functions concern the export markets for dried vine fruits (currants, sultanas and raisins). Currently, the ADFC is constituted of a Chairman, four producer representatives, a Government representative and two members with experience in either marketing, promotion, commerce, finance, economics, science or industrial matters.

The Industries Assistance Commission (IAC) reported in 1984 on the dried vine fruits industry following the Government's request for an inquiry into the assistance needs of the industry because falling world market prices, in response to a surplus of fruit, had reduced export returns and had, consequently, caused major financial difficulties in the industry.[1] (For further background and details of the changes to current arrangements, refer to Bills Digest Nos. 85/46 and 85/48.)

After considering IAC's report, the Government decided to provide for the appointment of two additional specially qualified members "in view of the increasing complexity of international marketing of dried vine fruit, and in line with its objective of enhancing the effectiveness of statutory marketing authorities".[2]

Main Provisions

The Bill will come into operation on the date of Royal Assent (clause 2).
Clause 3 amends section 15 of the Principal Act to increase the membership of specially qualified persons from two to four. The Minister is to consult the Australian Dried Fruits Association and other necessary bodies prior to the appointment of the extra members.

The quorum for ADFC meetings will be increased from 6 to 7 members (amendment to section 23 of the Principal Act by clause 4).

All ADFC financial borrowings are to be subject to approval by the Minister, instead of the Treasurer, after consultation with the Treasurer (amendment to section 28 of the Principal Act by clause 5).

For further information, if required, contact:

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References