Date Introduced: 20 March 1985
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964 in order to update provisions; to alter the process required for a variation of the slaughter levy; to increase the prescribed maximum rates of slaughter levy for the research component and the total of research and Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation (AMLC) purposes; and to amalgamate the component of the levy which raises funds to finance the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) meat processing industry research with the general research component.

Background

This Bill is complementary to the Australian Meat and Live-stock Research and Development Corporation Bill 1985. For information about the new arrangements for rural research, refer to Bills Digests Nos. 85/137 and 85/54.

The Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act (Principal Act) imposes a levy on the slaughter of cattle, buffaloes, calves, bobby calves, sheep, lambs and goats. The proceeds are used for financing the AMLC, meat and live-stock research, meat processing research and cattle disease eradication.

Under current arrangements, before the AMLC can recommend a variation to the levy rate to the Minister, the recommendation must be put before AMLC's annual general meeting. The Australian Meat Research Committee (AMRC), after consulting with industry, has been responsible for recommending variations in the levy rate for research purposes to the Minister.

Main Provisions

A detailed explanation of the provisions of the Bill is contained in the Explanatory Memorandum.
References to the AMRC in the Principal Act are to be replaced with references to the Australian Meat and Live-stock Research and Development Corporation (AMLRDC) (clause 11).

Sections 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E and 6F of the Principal Act are amended to provide for changes in the maximum rates of slaughter levy (clauses 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, respectively).

The AMLRDC may not recommend a variation in the research component of the slaughter levy without the proposal being first endorsed by its annual general meeting (AGM). Furthermore, the AMLRDC will be required to inform the Minister of the voting of the AGM on the proposal, when making a recommendation (section 8 of the Principal Act, as amended by clause 11). References to the components of the slaughter levy which raise funds to finance CSIRO meat processing industry research are removed from the Bill.

For further information, if required, contact:

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Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE