DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To appropriate $2,382,801,500 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) in order to provide for proposed expenditure on the construction of public works and buildings, the acquisition of sites and buildings, certain advances and loans, items of plant and equipment, new policy initiatives and for payments to the States and the Northern Territory.

Background

Refer to the Bills Digest for the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1985-86 (No. 85/164).

Main Provisions

Clause 3 allows the Minister for Finance to spend $2,382,801,500 from the CRF on items specified in Schedule 2 during the year ending 30 June 1986.

Under the Supply Act (No. 2) 1985-86, expenditure of $1,752,467,500 for the period 1 July 1985 to 30 November 1985 was authorised. Clause 4 appropriates $4,135,269,000 for the expenditures authorised in Schedule 2 of the Bill. The sum comprises $1,752,467,500 authorised by the Supply Act (No. 2) 1985-86, together with $2,382,801,500 to be issued by this Bill.

Clause 5 deals with payments to the States and the Northern Territory. The purposes for such payments are listed in Schedule 2 of the Bill as well as the Minister determining the conditions, amounts and timing of the payments. Payments for Technical and Further Education building projects which provide infrastructure assistance
for the steel regions are to be made in accordance with terms and conditions determined by the Minister for Education. The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations is to determine the terms and conditions applicable to payments for projects which provide infrastructure assistance for the steel regions.

The terms and conditions of payments for natural disaster relief and restoration, and in relation to the termination of the Gordon River Power Development, Stage 2, are to be determined by the Minister for Finance.

The Minister for Community Services is responsible for determining the conditions and terms of payments for home and community care not being for the purpose of another Act.

Payments to the States or the Northern Territory for special research, the Bovine Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign, contribution to Victoria for the eradication of fowl plague, Australian Agricultural Council sponsored projects, adjustment assistance to the wine industry, soil conservation, exotic disease preparedness, plant genetic resources storage facilities, dried vine fruits adjustment assistance etc., are to be made on terms and conditions determined by the Minister for Primary Industry.

The Minister for Health is responsible for payments relating to the transfer of nurse education to Colleges of Advanced Education. Payments for home help services, and for joint ventures for the care and welfare of veterans, war widows and dependants are to be made on terms and conditions set by the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

Clause 7 deals with payments and advances made under the Home Community Care Program, effective on 1 July 1985. Such payments (including advances) will include those made under the Home Nursing Subsidy Act 1956, States Grants (Paramedical Services) Act 1969, Delivered Meals Subsidy Act 1970, States Grants (Home Care) Act 1969 as well as payments made under other Acts.
For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

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