APPLE AND PEAR LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Date Introduced: 29 February 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Purpose

To make two changes to the apple and pear levy legislation: to reduce the levy on pears used for distillation of pear brandy, presently at the same level as on pears used for processing, to the lower level on pears for juicing; and to exempt dried pears from the levy.

Background

The Bill amends the Apple and Pear Levy Act 1976. Its exemption for pears used for drying is associated with the Dried Fruits Levy Amendment Bill 1984, which would subject fruit for drying, including pears but not apples, to dried fruits levy.

The apple and pear levy provides funds for the Australian Apple and Pear Corporation. The levy yielded $810,000 in the 1982 calendar year, compared with some $155,000 from the Apple and Pear Export Charge. Expenditure of the Corporation included $406,000 on publicity and promotion within Australia, and $72,000 on overseas promotion, the major campaign being conducted in Singapore[1]. The Corporation also maintains a Research Foundation, to assist research projects involving various aspects of growing, harvesting, protection, storage and marketing, and funded to the extent of 5 per cent of the Corporation's levy income[2].

During the 1984 calendar year, apples and pears used for distillation are to be exempt from levy. This transitional exemption was instituted by Regulation (Apple and Pear Levy Collection Regulations (Amendment) S.R. 1983/288).
Main Provisions

Clause 2 provides for commencement on 1 January 1985.

Clause 3 amends the definition of "fruit juice" to include distilled beverages so that apples and pears used for distillation will be subject to levy at the lower juicing rate.

Clause 3 adds subsection 7(3A) so that pears used for dried fruit become exempt from apple and pear levy. Such pears are intended to be made subject to dried fruits levy. Since dried apples do not fall within the dried fruits levy legislation, apples used for drying are intended to remain subject to apple and pear levy.

For further information, if required, contact:

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5 March 1984

References