**Purpose**

To amend the Chicken Meat Research Act 1969 in order to facilitate the use of funds for research.

**Background**

The Chicken Meat Research Act 1969 established a joint Commonwealth and industry research scheme for the chicken meat industry. The Act provided for a trust account, and a chicken meat research committee which would make recommendations concerning expenditure from the fund. Moneys from the trust account are to be used for scientific, economic or technical research into the chicken meat industry. Funds for the research scheme are raised by a levy on meat chicken hatchings with the Government providing a matching contribution on a dollar for dollar basis.

**Main Provisions**

Clause 3 provides for the payment of moneys collected as penalty for late payment of levy into the Research Account.

Clause 4 proposes to establish two separate accounts within the Research Account. The first account will cover funds matched by the Commonwealth (levy receipts) and the second account will cover funds not matched by the Commonwealth (sale of assets or produce from research projects, interest on investment of resources, and penalties for late payment of levy).

Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of moneys from either account in the Research Account, thereby allowing greater flexibility in meeting research
expenditure. In the past, access to the unmatchable reserves has been restricted by the need to first use matchable funds. The major difficulty has centred on the uncertainty as to when matchable funds have been exhausted as levy payments are received regularly.

For further information, if required, contact:

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