SUPPLY BILL (NO. 2) 1984-85

Date Introduced: 1 May 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, M.P., Minister for Finance

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To provide for the appropriation of $1,711,770,500 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for expenditure on capital works and services, payments to or for the States and the Northern Territory, and certain other services, for the period 1 July to 30 November 1984.

Background

The Supply Bill (No. 1) 1984-85 together with the Supply Bill (No. 2) 1984-85 and the Supply (Parliamentary Departments) Bill 1984-85 provide interim appropriations for the period 1 July 1984 to 30 November 1984. It is expected that, by 30 November 1984, the Appropriation Bills, which are introduced on Budget night in August, would have been enacted. The amounts appropriated by the Supply Bills are later included in the Appropriation Bills for the financial year to which the expenditures relate.

Outline

The Bill provides for the appropriation of $1,711,770,500, which is about 71.4 per cent greater than the amount provided for the 1983-84 supply period. The Minister outlined, in his Second Reading Speech, the main areas of increased spending, namely:

- $308 million in payments to the States and the Northern Territory under agreements entered into under Medicare whereby from 1 February 1984 the Commonwealth will compensate the States and the Northern Territory for revenue losses and additional costs associated with the removal of inpatient and outpatient fees in public hospitals;
. $70 million in payments to the States and the Northern Territory reflecting the 1983-84 Budget decision to increase funds available for housing; and

. $278 million for the Commonwealth Employment Program, expenditure for which in 1983-84 was provided for under a one-time special appropriation under the Community Employment Act.

Excluding these very large amounts the increase is only $57 million or 5.7 per cent".

Main Provisions

Clause 3 allows the Minister for Finance to issue $1,711,770,500 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purposes outlined in the Schedule of the Bill for the 1984-85 financial year.

Clause 4 deals with payments to the States and the Northern Territory. Sub-clause 4(1) provides that such payments for natural disaster relief and restoration purposes, and payments to Tasmania in relation to the termination of the Gordon River Power Development Stage Two (sub-clause 4(2)), must be made in accordance with terms and conditions determined by the Minister for Finance. The Minister for Primary Industry will be responsible for the terms and conditions of payments to the States and the Northern Territory for the bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign (sub-clause 4(3)) and for supplementary assistance for apple and pear exports (sub-clause 4(4)). The Minister for Transport will be responsible for the terms and conditions of payments to Tasmania for the construction of the Second Hobart Bridge (sub-clause 4(9)).

For further information, if required, contact:

Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

7 May 1984