Purpose

The Bill provides for the establishment of an Industry Policy Council with responsibilities of consultation with all industry persons, bodies and authorities not represented on the Council and to take into account their views, along with those of the Council's membership when formulating industry policy advice for the Minister.

Background

See Background in Bills Digest for the Australian Meat and Live-Stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984.

Main Provisions

Clause 4 establishes the Council.

Clause 5 specifies the functions of the Council which include:

- inquiring into matters affecting the industry which require Commonwealth action
- inquire into matters referred to it by the Minister
- develop recommendations, guidelines and plans for the industry.

Clause 6 enables the Chairman to convene a conference, at least every two years, of persons concerned with the industry. Attendance will be at the invitation of the Chairman. The purpose of the conference will be the identification of industry issues, promotion of a better understanding of those issues and the fostering of consensus on industry policies.
Clause 7 establishes the guidelines for the publication of any of the Council's Reports. In general the Minister will have the right to accept or reject publication.

Clause 8 grants the Council the power to do all things necessary to carry out its functions.

Clause 9 establishes the membership of the Council at fourteen with the Minister having the right to enlarge the Council with a member from any of the Industry bodies not already represented. A broad range of current industry bodies are represented.

The Chairman will be appointed by the Minister and will hold office for three years. All members are part-time.

Clause 12 allows the Chairman to be paid remuneration as directed by the Remuneration Tribunal and all other members are to receive the prescribed allowances.

Clause 16 stipulates that a member shall disclose all potential conflicts of interest in any matter being discussed. The disclosure will be recorded in the minutes and that member shall not, without Council or Ministerial approval, take part in the deliberations or decisions of the Council in that matter.

Clause 17 gives the Chairman the power to convene meetings as necessary or upon the request of six members. A quorum is 9 members. Questions are to be decided by a majority vote of those present and the member presiding has both a deliberative and casting vote.

Clause 18 gives the Council the right to establish such working parties as it thinks necessary and to constitute those parties in an optimal manner.

Clause 20 gives the Council the right to employ staff and the power to arrange with the Department of Primary Industry for the services of their employees and officers.

Clause 22 determines that an Annual Report will be presented to the Minister.

For further information, if required, contact:

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