Date Introduced: 10 May 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964 to allow for a change in the consultation process between the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation (AMLC) and the associated industry for a variation in the levy rate.

Background

The Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964 and the Live-stock Export Charge Act 1977 raise funds from the meat and live-stock industry for the same purposes and are similar in rates. The former applies to live-stock slaughtered in Australia while the latter applies to stock exported live.

The Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964 (Principal Act) imposes a levy on the slaughter of cattle, buffaloes, calves, bobby calves, sheep, lambs and goats. The proceeds are used for financing the AMLC, meat and live-stock research, meat processing research and cattle disease eradication.

Under current arrangements, before a variation in the levy rate can be recommended to the Minister, AMLC's Consultative Groups are required to consult with the meat and live-stock industry. However, as a result of the proposed restructuring of AMLC (refer to the Bills Digest for the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984) there will be consequential changes to the Principal Act affecting the consultation process.

Outline

This Bill, which is complementary to the Live-stock Export Charge Amendment Bill 1984, proposes to change the current procedure of varying the levy rate because, as a result of the restructuring of AMLC, the Consultative Groups will be abolished. Under this Bill, before the AMLC can
recommend a variation to the levy rate to the Minister, the recommendation must first be put before AMLC's annual general meeting (AGM). The Bill also provides for interim arrangements whereby the AMLC will be allowed to vary the rate pending the first AGM provided that the AMLC consults with those industry organisations previously members of the Consultative Groups.

The Australian Meat Research Committee, after consulting with industry, will be responsible for recommending variations in the levy rate for research purposes to the Minister. The AMLC was previously responsible for such recommendations.

Main Provisions

Sub-clause 4(2) provides for the change in the consultation process requiring any proposal for a variation to the levy rate to be put before AMLC's AGM.

For further information, if required, contact:

1 June 1984

Economics and Commerce Group
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