CANNED FRUITS LEVY COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Date Introduced: 13 September 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.C. Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To change the due date for payment of levy imposed on canned deciduous fruits produced in Australia, to increase penalty provisions and to modify procedures relating to appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in accordance with current practices.

Background


Levy is imposed on the production of canned fruit payable to the Australian Canned Fruit Corporation. Under the existing legislation, levy currently becomes due and payable on 15 July and 15 January. When compiling its accounts, the Australian Canned Fruits Corporation has included anticipated January levy receipts in its calendar year accounts. Because the levy is not due till January 15, it is questionable whether such an accounting practice is technically correct.

Main Provisions

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that the due date for payment of levy is brought forward a month to December 15 and June 15.

Clauses 4, 5 and 7 provide for the increase of penalties.

Clause 6 provides that parties adversely affected by a decision on the remission of penalty for late payment should be advised that they may have recourse to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.
Remarks

Although the Bill provides for a change of one month in the time when levy is due, the date when levy is payable remains unchanged. Therefore this provision may be expected to have no impact other than tidying up the bookkeeping practices of the Australian Canned Fruit Corporation.

Collection of levy on production of canned fruit helps enable the Australian Canned Fruit Corporation to maintain a dual price structure between export and domestic sales of canned fruit. Disbursement of levy is then used to equalise returns to growers.

Because the domestic price of canned fruit is higher than the export prices there is an incentive for individual growers to evade their statutory requirements and place their output on the domestic market. Penalties are necessary to discourage such behaviour that would probably result in a lower price for Australian consumers of canned fruit.

For further information, if required, contact:

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