Date Introduced: 21 April 1983
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. J.S. Dawkins, Minister for Finance

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To appropriate $196,012,000 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, in addition to the appropriations made under Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1982-83, for payments in respect of the Natural Disaster Relief and Restoration arrangements, and for special bushfire relief.

Background

Under the natural disaster relief arrangements, the Commonwealth provides assistance on a $3 Commonwealth: $1 State basis for expenditures by each State and the Northern Territory on approved relief and restoration measures above an annual base amount established for the State on its capacity to meet such payments. The Commonwealth also meets half the cost of assistance provided by the States for the immediate relief of personal hardship and distress. Such natural disasters as cyclones, storms, floods, bushfires and droughts are eligible for Commonwealth assistance.

Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1982-83 provided $8.5m for relief and restoration measures. As a result of the continuation of the drought, and bushfires in Victoria and South Australia in February 1983, further appropriations are required. The revised estimate of $174.5m provides for drought relief of about $112m, bushfire relief of about $49m, and approximately $14m for assistance for other eligible natural disasters.

The reasons underlying the requirement for interim appropriation measures in the form of Appropriation Bills (Nos. 3 and 4) 1982-83 prior to the Additional Estimates are outlined in the digest for Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 1982-83.
Outline

The Bill appropriates $166,012,000 to meet the Commonwealth's contribution under the natural disaster relief arrangements towards expenditure by the States and the Northern Territory on natural disaster relief and restoration. Of the $166m, $34.8m has been provided from the Advance to the Minister for Finance. An amount of $30m in addition to that available under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements, is to be appropriated for special bushfire relief for Victoria ($19.5m) and South Australia ($10.5m).

Main Provisions

Clause 3 allows the Minister for Finance to issue $196,012,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for purposes specified in the Schedule for the year ending 30 June 1983. By clause 4 this amount will be deemed to have been appropriated as from 1 July 1982.

Clause 5 outlines the manner and conditions of payment to the States and Northern Territory for natural disaster relief and restoration, and special bushfire relief.

For further information, if required, contact:

28 April 1983
Economics and Commerce Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

References

Explanatory Notes on Appropriation Bills (Nos.3 and 4) 1982-83, prepared by the Departments concerned.

Digests for Appropriation Bill (No.3) 1982-83, and Loan Bill 1983.