PIG SLAUGHTER LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 30 April 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. P.J. Nixon, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To increase the maximum permissible levy for promotion purposes from 20 cents to $1 per pig.

Background and Provisions

Commonwealth legislation in 1975 established an industry promotion scheme for pig meat. The Pig Meat Promotion Act 1975 established the Pig Meat Promotion Trust Account from which moneys are applied for promoting pig meat and determining consumer preferences. Moneys are paid into the Account from the Consolidated Revenue Fund being equal in amount to funds received by the Commonwealth from the portion of industry slaughter levies for promotion. Unlike funds for research, the Commonwealth makes no contribution to funds for promotion. This Act also established the Pig Meat Promotion Advisory Committee whose functions are to recommend to the Minister the rate of slaughter levy (for promotion purposes) to be prescribed and also, how funds in the Account should be expended. Contributions to the Account from the industry levy in 1979-80 were $467,460 and payments from the Account were $452,091.

The Pig Slaughter Levy Amendment Act 1975 amended the Pig Slaughter Levy Act 1971 so as to provide for the promotion levy in addition to the existing research levy. The maximum levy of 5 cents per pig was subsequently increased to 20 cents in 1978. The current operative levy has now reached the maximum of 20 cents. Accordingly the present Bill provides for a maximum promotion levy rate of $1 per pig (cl.2) to allow for further increases in the operative rate.

For further information, if required, contact:

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group
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LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE