BEEF INDUSTRY (INCENTIVE PAYMENTS) 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 validate the existing procedures under which the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) makes payments to beef producers under the Beef Industry (Incentive Payments) Act 1977.

Background and Provisions

Under the Principal Act persons may be eligible for incentive payments in their own right or as a member of a group of joint cattle owners nominated to receive and distribute the payment. However, payments are not payable to the one producer in respect of more than 200 cattle (subsection 6(4)). This raises the following anomaly. If a person as nominee for a group of producers receives a share of the payments ($10 per animal) for 200 cattle that person is ineligible for further payments for his own cattle. But where that person makes a claim on his own cattle he would be eligible for up to the maximum payment of $2,000. Other anomalies can occur depending on the order in which claims are presented. It was apparently the intention of the Act and is the practice of the DPI to treat 2 or more claims by a person so as to maximize the payments to that person by ignoring the order in which claims are made. Clause 3 validates the DPI's procedure by making the necessary amendment which is backdated to the commencement of the Principal Act. Provision is also made to increase past payments to the maximum payable where this has not already occurred. A safeguard is provided to ensure that no legally-made past payments become overpayments as a result of the present amendments.

For further information, if required, contact:
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