MINERALS (SUBMERGED LANDS) (ROYALTY) BILL 1981

Date Introduced: 14 May 1981
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, Minister for Trade and Resources

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To impose a royalty on minerals recovered from the continental shelf.

Background

See Digest to Minerals (Submerged Lands) Bill 1981.

Main Provisions

Clause 4 imposes on a person who holds or held a licence under the Minerals (Submerged Lands) Bill 1981 a royalty for all minerals recovered under the licence. The rate of royalty for a particular mineral is to be determined by the Joint Authority and takes effect from the date on which a copy of the determination is published in the Gazette. It may be related to the landed value or the quantity of the mineral concerned (clause 5). In particular cases the landed value and quantity are to be determined by agreement between the Joint Authority and the licencee but failing agreement is such amount or quantity as the Joint Authority determines (clauses 7 and 8). The Joint Authority can reduce the rate of royalty for a mineral under a particular licence if it is satisfied that further recovery of that kind of mineral under the licence would be uneconomic at the determined rate (clause 6).

The Bill provides for 6 month royalty periods ending on 30 June or 31 December with the first period starting on the day the licence is issued and ending on the next of those days (sub-clause 3(1)). Royalty is payable within a month after the end of the period and there is provision for an additional amount of 1% per day for late payment; where the royalty is related to landed value or quantity late payments are calculated from seven days after the amount or quantity is determined.
Royalties and additional amounts are debts due to the Commonwealth and are recoverable in a court of competent jurisdiction and are received by the Designated Authority on behalf of the Commonwealth (clause 10).

For further information, if required, contact:

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