Date Introduced: 20 February 1980
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. John Howard, Treasurer

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To authorize borrowings of $3 million by the Commonwealth to fund credit facilities for soldier settlers under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

Provisions

Clauses 3 and 4 confer authority on the Treasurer to borrow up to $3 million to be applied only for the expenses of borrowing and for financial assistance to South Australia and Western Australia for war service land settlement.

Background

The States Grants (War Service Land Settlement) Act 1952 provides for financial assistance to the States in connection with the settlement of ex-servicemen on the land. Under terms determined by the Minister for Primary Industry, it has been the practice for the Commonwealth to provide capital moneys to the State governments of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania for the acquisition and development of properties and for the making of advances to settlers for working capital and the acquisition of stock, plant and equipment.

In New South Wales and Victoria, such moneys have been provided by the State governments, with Commonwealth involvement being limited to sharing losses on a 50:50 basis.

Queensland withdrew from the scheme in 1954.

War Service credit facilities in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania have been provided by the Commonwealth through borrowings authorized by Loan (War Service Land Settlement) Acts brought down from time to time. The most recent Loan Act was in 1977 when $3 million was authorized for this purpose.
Tasmania no longer has any settlers in receipt of credit facilities and requirements in South Australia and Western Australia are declining and are expected to phase out over the next four to five years.

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group

29 February 1980

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE