Date Introduced: 20 March 1980
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Hon. J.E. McLeay, Minister for Administrative Services

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To identify the role and status of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

Background

In June 1978 the Premiers Conference agreed that there should be a major commemoration of the 1988 bicentenary of the first European settlement in Australia. In April 1979 the Prime Minister announced that an authority would be established to be responsible for planning and staging this commemoration. The Australian Bicentennial Authority has since been established and registered as a Company, limited by guarantee under the Australian Capital Territory Companies Ordinance 1962.

Main Provisions

Clause 6 provides that the Authority shall promote its objects and exercise its powers in accordance with such directions (if any) given by the Minister.

Clause 7 provides that the Prime Minister may terminate the appointment of the Chairman in certain circumstances.

Clause 11 states that the Board of the Authority shall prepare estimates of receipts and expenditure for each financial year in accordance with the directions of the Minister, and that expenditure by the Authority shall be in accordance with the estimates approved by the Minister.

Clause 12 restricts the application of moneys by the Authority to payment or discharge of the costs, expenses and other obligations incurred within the objects and powers of the Authority.

Clause 15 requires the Authority to consult with the Public Service Board before determining terms and
conditions of service or employment of persons.

Clause 17 deems the Authority to be a Commonwealth authority for the purposes of Part IV of the Public Service Act 1922. The rights of public servants who may be employed by the authority are protected by clause 20.

Clause 19 exempts the Authority from Commonwealth, State or Territory taxation.

Clause 21 declares that it is the intention of the Parliament that the winding up of the Authority should be completed on or before 30 June 1990.

Clause 22 makes it an offence to exploit the Authority's name, symbol and certain words and expressions when used in conjunction with relevant dates or figures without the written consent of the Authority.

Clause 25 requires the Board of the Authority to submit an annual report to the Minister, who shall cause it to be laid before each House of Parliament. Copies of the report must also be submitted to the State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory.