COASTAL WATERS (NORTHERN TERRITORY POWERS) BILL 1980

Date Introduced: 23 April 1980
House: House of Representatives

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To extend the legislative powers of the Northern Territory in relation to coastal waters.

Background

See Digest of Coastal Waters (State Powers) Bill 1980.

Main Provisions

Clause 5 provides that the legislative powers of the Northern Territory extend to the making of any laws that could be made under section 6 of the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978 as if the coastal waters of the Territory were within the limits of the Territory. Coastal waters means the territorial sea adjacent to the Territory (fixed at three miles) and any waters on the landward side that are not within the Territory.

The legislative powers of the Territory also extend to the making of laws in the relevant continental shelf area about subterranean mining from land within the Territory and ports, harbours and other coastal works; and to fisheries in Australian waters beyond the territorial sea where under arrangements with the Commonwealth, the fisheries are to be managed in accordance with Territory laws.

Clause 6 preserves the status of the territorial sea under international law.

Clause 7 provides that the limits of the Territory are not extended, that there is no derogation from the powers of the Territory apart from this Bill; and that no Territory laws inconsistent with Commonwealth laws or the Constitution will have any force or effect.