PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

WOOL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1979

Date Introduced: 28 May 1979
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Rt. Hon. I. Sinclair, Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To provide machinery to recover approximately half of the costs of the Australian Wool Measurement Standards Authority.

Background

The Australian Wool Measurement Standards Authority exists within the Department of Primary Industry and uses Departmental officers. Its function is the monitoring of wool sampling procedures and registering of wool sampling sites to ensure the maintenance of high standards. Actual wool sampling is undertaken by the Australian Wool Testing Authority (AWTA), established under the Wool Industry Act 1972. The sampling facilities are located at wool brokers' stores and owned by the brokers.

At present, the Australian Wool Testing Authority charges brokers a commercial fee for sampling wool and issuing a Presale Test Certificate accepted by the International Wool Textile Organisation.

The Australian Wool Measurement Standards Authority has in the past not charged for its services nor has there been any legal connection between its register of sample sites and the issuing of certificates from those sites.

This Bill will allow the Standards Authority to charge brokers a fee for registration and inspection of their sampling sites, payment of which will be a prerequisite for obtaining I.W.T.O. certificates for wool sampled at those sites. It is expected that the brokers will pass the cost on to the woolgrowers.

For 1979-80 it is proposed to charge a registration fee of about 53c per lot sampled with a minimum annual fee of $100 in respect of any one sampling site. On current estimates for 1979-80, charges at these rates are estimated to yield $167,500 in a full year, approximately half the costs of the Standards Authority.
Main Provisions

Clause 2 states that this Act will come into operation on 1 July 1979.

Clause 3 amends s.60 of the Wool Industry Act 1972-1978 so that the AWTA can only provide pre-sale test certificates for samples drawn from sample sites registered and inspected as provided by the regulations.

Clause 4 amends s.92 dealing with the Governor-General's regulation making powers to add the additional power to regulate -

(a) the registration and inspection of sampling sites; and

(b) the fees payable in respect of the registration and inspection of sampling sites.

Finance, Industries, Trade & Development Group

7 June 1979

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE