Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 1990-91

Date Introduced: 14 February 1991
House: House of Representatives
Portfolio: Finance

Purpose
The Bill will authorise the Minister for Finance to issue an additional $234.070 million from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) in addition to the funds appropriated by the Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1990-91.

Background
Annual authorisations for expenditure are contained in the Appropriation Act (No. 1), which authorises expenditure for the ordinary services of government, and the Appropriation Act (No. 2), which deals with expenditure on capital works and services, payments to the States and other purposes not authorised by special legislation. The Parliamentary Departments are covered by the Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act. Additional appropriations may be sought in further Appropriation Bills, usually known as the additional estimates, when the appropriation sought in the Appropriation Acts is insufficient for the financial year.

The Appropriation Acts lapse on 30 June at the end of the relevant financial year, and authorisation for expenditure between the end of the financial year and the passage of the next years Appropriation Acts is contained in the Supply Acts, which are normally passed a month or so before the Appropriation Acts lapse.

The additional appropriations sought by this Bill include $181.411 million for payment to the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce and $52.659 million for the Department of Defence. The reason given by the Government for these additional appropriations is to meet certain unforeseen costs associated with invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. The proposed additional appropriation for the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce is intended to meet insurance claims associated with defaults by Iraq on credit sales by the Australian Wheat Board, and the additional appropriation for the Department of Defence to meet equipment and stores expenditure associated with the deployment of Australian service personnel in the Gulf.

Main Provisions
Clause 3 will authorise the Minister for Finance to issue $234.070 million from the CRF in respect of the financial year 1990-91, while clause 4 will deem this amount to have been appropriated from 1 July 1989 for the purposes outlined in the Schedule to the Bill. The Schedule lists the Departments and programs which are to receive additional funds.