

1987

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EGG INDUSTRY RESEARCH (HEN QUOTA) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1987

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Primary Industries
and Energy, the Honourable John Kerin, MP)

EGG INDUSTRY RESEARCH (HEN QUOTA) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1987

GENERAL OUTLINE

The amendments contained in this Bill are intended to clarify the incidence of the levy imposed by the Egg Industry Research (Hen Quota) Levy Act 1987.

2. Since that Act was framed, it has come to notice that because of variations in State hen quota practices, there is room for doubt as to the adequacy of those provisions of the Act which define the application of the levy.

3. The proposed changes will establish clearly that the levy applies to operative hen quotas, ie, the actual hen keeping entitlements, irrespective of how and where these are specified under State or Territory administrative procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

4. The amendments do not increase the financial commitments of the Commonwealth or the industry.

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL CLAUSES

Clause 1: Short title etc.

5. Short title of the Act and identification of the Principal Act.

Clause 2: Commencement

6. Since the levy is assessed once a year and the levy payable for 1987-88 is based on hen quotas operative at 1 July 1987, it is necessary to make the amendments, which essentially redefine hen quotas, retrospective to that date. The amendments do not increase the liability of levy payers.

Clause 3: Interpretation

7. This clause provides a revised definition of the term "hen quota licence" and adds a definition of "hen quota". The present version of the first-mentioned definition assumes that licences in all States specify a hen quota, expressed as a single figure. While this is so in some States, in others the licence specifies both a base quota and a lower operative quota which a producer must not exceed. Moreover, several States do not include the permissible level, or any hen quota, in the licence but specify it in another document. The proposed changes will establish clearly that the levy applies to actual hen keeping entitlements (ie. operative hen quotas) irrespective of how or where these are specified.

Clause 4: Egg production in Northern Territory

8. These amendments are necessary to reflect the circumstance that hen quotas are not always specified in the licence but in a separate advice or document as quotas determined for the licence.

Clause 5: Egg production in Australian Capital Territory

9. These amendments have the same purpose as those contained in clause 4.

Clause 6: Laying hens kept

10. Again, these amendments have the same purpose as those in clause 4.