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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HONEY RESEARCH BILL 1980

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by the Acting Minister for
Primary Industry, the Hon. Evan Adermann, M.P.)

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Introduction

The purpose of the Bill is to implement a honey research scheme.

Cognate legislation (the Honey Levy (No.1) Amendment Bill, the Honey Levy (No.2) Amendment Bill and the Honey Export Charge Amendment Bill, in respect of a research levy/export charge) will substantially increase the funds available for honey industry research.

The Honey Industry Amendment Bill will ensure that the additional levy/export charge for research is distinguished from the existing levy/export charge for the purposes of the Australian Honey Board.

Timing

The research levy/export charge legislation is to come into operation on 1 July 1980. Other provisions are to operate from the date of Royal Assent to enable early appointment of the Honey Research Committee to consider and recommend to the Minister a research program for 1980/81.

Administration

The legislation will be administered by the Department of Primary Industry.

The Legislation Proposal

The following paragraphs outline the main provisions and effects of the proposed legislation.

Interpretation

Section 3 defines terms regularly used in the Bill.

The definition of "research" is consistent with legislation for existing rural industry research schemes, and covers the scientific, technical and economic aspects of beekeeping and the production, packing and marketing of hive products. It includes the training of persons for research, publication of research findings and the dissemination of information and advice.

Honey Research Trust Account

Sections 4 and 5 provide for the establishment of and the payment of moneys into the Honey Research Trust Account (the Research Account).

Section 6 provides for two separate accounts to be kept in the Research Account. One is an account of moneys paid into the Research Account, out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, equal to research levy/export charge receipts which are to be matched by the Commonwealth as industry contributions are spent. The other is an account of

non-matchable income from:

- Consolidated revenue of amounts equal to penalties for non-payment of levy/export charge;
- payments from any person for the purposes of the Research Account;
- sale of assets and produce;
- interest on investments.

Section 5 provides for appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of amounts equal to research levy/export charge receipts, penalties for non-payment and the Commonwealth matching contribution.

Application of Research Account

Section 7 permits expenditure from either account for the purposes of:

- research, with the approval of the Minister on the recommendation of the Honey Research Committee;
- payment of Committee expenses;
- payment of remuneration, expenses and allowances to Committee members or deputies and advisers.

Agreements for Research

Section 8 contains standard provisions for the Minister, or an authorised officer, to enter into agreements covering the use of moneys paid from the Research Account, rights in respect of property purchased, patents etc.

Honey Research Committee

Section 9 establishes the Honey Research Committee and provides that its functions are to make recommendations to the Minister regarding expenditure from the Research Account on research and the rate of research levy/export charge.

Sections 10-15 contain customary provisions covering appointment, payment, removal and resignation of Committee members and deputies, arrangements for meetings etc. The Committee will consist of 5 members, each representing one of:

- Department of Primary Industry (Chairman)
- Australian Agricultural Council)
- CSIRO) Research organisations
- Australian Honey Board)
- producers' organisation) Honey industry

Section 16 provides that the Committee may appoint advisers.

Annual Report

Under Section 17 the Committee shall report annually to the Minister on the operation of the Act, the report to be presented to Parliament.

Regulations

Section 18 provides that regulations may be made under the Act.