

1983 - 1984

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

ROADS GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL 1984

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister representing
the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Veterans'
Affairs, Senator the Hon. A.T. Gietzelt)

ROADS GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL 1984

OUTLINE

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Roads Grants Act 1981.

The Roads Grants Act requires the States to call tenders for all works associated with national road construction projects funded under the Act.

The Bill introduces some flexibility into this requirement. It allows the Minister to agree, upon request by a State, to an exemption from the requirement to call tenders for particular works where the Minister is satisfied that specific circumstances apply.

The Bill provides for the amended arrangements to be backdated to 12 February 1984, the date on which they were announced.

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CLAUSE 1

SHORT TITLE, ETC.

This is the formal clause providing for the citation of the Principal Act and the Amending Act.

CLAUSE 2

COMMENCEMENT

This clause provides for the Act to come into operation on the day on which it receives Royal Assent. The amendments for which provision is made by Section 3 are to be backdated to 12 February 1984.

CLAUSE 3

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO PART II
PROJECTS

This clause amends Section 24 of the Principal Act by providing that the Minister may agree that particular works are exempt from the requirement to be put to tender. Tenders will not be required to be called where a State satisfies the Minister that

- . there is an emergency requirement for the works to be performed
- . the works are of such a minor nature that calling tenders would involve undue additional cost

- . it is not practical to prepare adequate tender specifications for the works

- . the works are of such a kind that competitive tenders are unlikely to be received

- . the works involve adjustments to utility services which would normally be undertaken by a government department, a government authority or a corporation not primarily responsible for the construction of roads

- . the performance of the work under contract would cause an unavoidable retrenchment of a substantial number of State or Local Government road construction employees

- . performance of the work under contract would cause unavoidable inefficiency in the deployment of a substantial number of State and Local Government road construction employees.