

1978-79

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

WHEAT MARKETING BILL 1979

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by the Minister for Primary Industry,  
the Hon. P.J. Nixon, M.P.)



## WHEAT MARKETING BILL 1979

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#### General

This Bill provides for the new marketing and pricing arrangements to apply to the wheat industry for the five seasons commencing 1 October 1979. It succeeds the Wheat Industry Stabilisation Act 1974 and associated legislation.

As with earlier schemes, complementary State legislation is necessary to make the arrangements effective. The States are proceeding to enact such legislation.

The Bill provides for the Australian Wheat Board to continue as the sole authority for the export marketing of wheat, flour and certain wheaten products and for the marketing of wheat domestically. However, provision is made for wheatgrowers to have the option of delivering wheat off farms direct to buyers within the authority of the Board. The Board will be authorised to issue permits to enable growers to deliver their wheat other than to a licensed receiver of the Board.

An important feature of the Bill is that the Commonwealth will guarantee growers a minimum price on their wheat based on 95% of the average of net pool returns of the subject year and the two preceding years converted to a net basis. Movements in the guaranteed minimum price from one season to the next are to be subject to a limit of 15%. The guaranteed minimum price will be paid by the Wheat Board to farmers on the delivery of their wheat.

The Bill provides for the home consumption price for wheat for human consumption to be \$127.78 per tonne, exclusive of the Tasmanian loading, for the first year of the new arrangements and the price for the next succeeding four years to be determined according to the formula contained in the Schedule to the Bill. The formula takes into account movements in prices paid by farmers and export prices and will provide for, over time, a margin above export parity subject to movements in the price being limited to 20% from year to year.

The home consumption prices for industrial and stockfeed wheats are to be set from time to time by the Board in the light of its commercial judgement.

The Bill modifies financial provisions under which the Board will operate so that as well as obtaining moneys from the Rural Credits Department (RCD) of the Reserve Bank to pay the first advance to growers and marketing expenses the Board will have the power to borrow commercially for these purposes. If requested by the Government to borrow commercially for these purposes within the statutory twelve months period applicable to RCD moneys, the Board will undertake these borrowings at no additional cost to growers.

Under the Bill the Board's RCD borrowings will be guaranteed by the Commonwealth as in the past but it is the Government's intention that the Board will refinance any outstanding debt to the RCD at the conclusion of the statutory period. To this end a Wheat Finance Fund has been established for the purpose of allowing the AWB to borrow in order to refinance any RCD indebtedness. The Board may also borrow commercially for this purpose.

The Bill provides for the Finance Fund to have a ceiling of \$100 million. The \$80 million currently held in the Wheat Prices Stabilisation Fund will be transferred to the new Fund and growers will contribute \$2.50 per tonne to it by way of a levy. Any moneys received over and above the ceiling of \$100 million will be repaid to growers according to their deliveries to the oldest pool that has equity in the Fund.

Following is a more detailed outline of the Bill which needs to be read in conjunction with the papers covering the associated Bills:

Wheat Levy Bill No. 1 1979  
Wheat Levy Bill No. 2 1979  
Wheat Industry Stabilization (Reimbursement of Borrowing Costs) Amendment Bill 1979  
Wheat Products Export Adjustment Amendment Bill 1979  
Wheat Tax Bill 1979  
Wheat Research Amendment Bill 1979.

#### PART I - PRELIMINARY

##### Short title

Clause 1 provides for the Act to be cited as the Wheat Marketing Act 1979.

##### Commencement

The Act is to cover seven years commencing 1 October 1979. It is desirable that it become effective as soon as possible. It is therefore to come into operation from the date of Royal Assent.

### Repeal and saving

Sub-clause 3(1) repeals the enabling legislation for the previous wheat scheme, the sixth Wheat Industry Stabilization Plan which covered wheat of the seasons up to that ending 30 September 1979. Sub-clauses 3(2) and 3(3) save the operation of that legislation, where necessary. Clause 3(4) provides for wheat delivered to the Board before 1 October 1979 to be covered by the Act for the Board's accounting purposes while Clause 3(5) continues in force a determination of the Minister that stamp duty, or similar tax, is not payable on security documents associated with the raising of funds by the Board.

### Interpretation

Clause 4(1) defines terms used in the Bill. The definitions given are generally self-explanatory.

The definition of "Australian standard white wheat" has been altered from that existing under current legislation. The intention of the change is to provide greater flexibility for Australian Wheat Board marketing operations.

"Season" is defined to apply for seven years from 1 October 1979. The proposed wheat pricing arrangements apply for five seasons and an additional two season period is provided to ensure the continuity of operation of the Australian Wheat Board over the period required to discharge its responsibilities for wheat of the fifth season.

The definition of wheat products includes those products which have been prescribed by Regulation as being subject to charges or payments on export under the price adjustment provision for exported wheat production under sub-clause 12(4).

Sub-clauses 4(2), 4(3) and 4(4) are drafting machinery clauses and sub-clause 4(5) brings wheat acquired by the Board before 1 October 1979 within the ambit of the Act.

### Quota seasons

Clause 5 continues the provisions in existing legislation that a season may be declared a quota season.

## PART II - AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

### Australian Wheat Board

Clause 6 brings in provisions from existing legislation that continue the Board in existence as a legal entity.

PART III - GENERAL POWERS OF THE MINISTER

Interpretation

By clause 7 the Minister's powers under Part III are extended to apply not only to wheat acquired under the Commonwealth Act but also under complementary State Acts.

Guaranteed minimum price

Clause 8 sets out the manner in which the Minister is to determine the guaranteed minimum price (GMP) for a season's pool.

Sub-clause 8(2) details the determination, on an equivalent Australian standard white basis, of the GMP, which is 95% of the average of the net pool returns of the subject pool and the pools of the two preceding seasons.

Sub-clause 8(3) provides for the determination for the first pool covered by the Act (1979/80) and for the Minister to make estimates, where necessary, to determine net pool returns, for the purpose of ascertaining the guaranteed minimum price having regard to advice from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics or the Australian Wheat Board.

Sub-clause 8(4) provides that a net pool return, which might have been derived from estimates and which is determined for ascertaining the GMP, shall not be used for any other purpose.

Sub-clause 8(5) limits movement in the GMP from season to season to 15%.

Gazettal of the GMP is provided for under sub-clause 8(6) while sub-clause 8(7) limits the operation of the GMP to the five seasons ending 30 September 1984.

Net pool return

Clause 9 sets out the manner in which the Minister is to determine the net return from a season's pool.

Sub-clause 9(1) provides for the deduction, from the ascertained net proceeds of the disposal of the season's pool, of an amount determined by the Board representing the Western Australian shipping freight advantage. The amount so deducted is paid to WA growers in accordance with the requirements of the State Act.

Sub-clause 9(2) makes provision for the deduction, from the net proceeds, of costs incurred by the Board as they relate to the Australia-wide pool and are not costs in respect of charges made by State bulk handling authorities or transport referred to in sub-clause 21(2) which are to individual growers account.

Sub-clause 9(3) provides that the net proceeds are to be arrived at by taking into account receipts under insurance policies, costs of quota operation where applicable and payments by exporters of wheat products to the Board under the Wheat Products Export Adjustment Act. Specifically excluded are incomings and outgoings in respect of the special account for freight to Tasmania, and "excesses" accruing to the grower in respect of grower to buyer transactions.

#### Net pool return rate

Clause 10 establishes the average net pool return per tonne and provides for Gazettal.

Clause 11 continues the general power of direction in respect of the Board's performance of functions and exercise of powers given the Minister in existing legislation.

### PART IV - MARKETING OF WHEAT

#### Powers of Board

Sub-clause 12(1) sets out the Board's powers in relation to the domestic and export marketing of wheat. It specifies what the Board may do with wheat from its delivery to the Board through to its ultimate disposal. Existing powers are continued and in addition 12(1)(d) requires a purchaser of wheat to provide a guarantee or other security if requested by the Board.

Sub-clause 12(2) is a standard provision applying to statutory authorities.

Sub-clause 12(3), taken in from existing legislation, is designed to facilitate the Board's accounting procedures.

Sub-clause 12(4) allows the Board to pay to or collect from an exporter of wheat products the difference between the export price and the home consumption price of the wheat content of the wheat products.

Sub-clause 12(5) enables the Board to undertake the supervision of the loading for export of grains other than wheat at the request of a State marketing authority and to accept payment for that service.

Licensed Receivers

Sub-clause 13(1) authorizes each State corporation (Bulk Handling Authority) to receive wheat on behalf of the Board

Sub-clause 13(2) enables State corporations to operate on agents premises where approved.

Overseas Agents

Clause 14 enables the Board to engage agents to act on its behalf overseas.

Delivery of wheat in a Territory

Clause 15 sets out the provisions requiring delivery of wheat to the Board in a Territory. Complementary State legislation will contain similar provisions governing delivery within the State. These provisions are identical with those of existing legislation, except for the exemptions for wheat moved under permit - 15(4)(b) and for seed and inferior wheat - 15(4)(d). A penalty is prescribed for non-compliance.

Delivery to licensed receiver

Clause 16 provides for delivery to the Board to be made by delivering to a licensed receiver and for certain conditions attaching to such delivery, including those applying in a quota season. The provision is identical with that in existing legislation.

Act not to apply to certain wheat

Under Clause 17 the Board may issue a declaration that the Act does not apply to certain wheat, being seed wheat or inferior quality wheat.

Permits for movement of wheat

Clause 18 authorises the Board to issue permits for the movement of wheat off-farm

- (a) for gristing with the produce of the gristing to be returned to the farm;
- (b) for use on an associated farm where such movement is considered not to affect the orderly marketing of wheat.

Sub-clause (6) defines what is meant by an associated farm. Apart from the specific examples given in (a), (b) and (c), the Board is able to use its discretion as to whether any other farm should be regarded as an associated farm for the purpose of this Clause.



Sub-clause (7) limits the operation of this section to five years from 1 December 1979, the period during which home consumption prices of wheat are to be established under the Act.

#### Notification of offer to purchase wheat

Clause 19 sets out the arrangements for direct delivery by a grower to a buyer under a permit from the Board. The clause provides for the Board to authorise a grower to accept from a person an offer to purchase wheat for consumption in Australia; sets out the conditions and procedure to be followed in the seeking and granting of such authority; provides for the wheat involved to become the property of the Board and for the purchase price to be paid to the Board; and where that price exceeds the appropriate home consumption price, the excess to be paid to the grower.

A basic condition of the issue of a permit under this clause is that the Board is satisfied that the offer price is not less than the home consumption price for the relevant use.

#### Unauthorised dealings with wheat

Clause 20 strengthens the Board's position as sole marketing authority, setting out the dealings with wheat which shall not be undertaken except with the consent of the Board, but taking into account delivery exemptions (Clause 15), movement under permit (Clause 18) and authorities to purchase wheat (Clause 19).

#### Advance payment for wheat

Clause 21 provides for an advance payment to be made to a grower upon delivery of his wheat to the Wheat Board.

Under Sub-clause 21(2) the advance will be calculated at the rate of GMP with allowances for quality, varietal characteristics, individual grower's rail freight, bulk handling charges and any other necessary adjustments for costs incurred by the Board on behalf of the individual grower. Provision is made for the Board to determine the wheat varieties that are to be docked in relation to wheat of a Territory. The appropriate State Minister will make the determination in respect of wheat of a State and this will be provided for in the complementary State legislation.

Sub-clause (4) enables the Board, with the approval of the Minister to make interim advance payments.

Sub-clause (5) restricts the level of the interim advance to amounts not greater than 85% of the GMP for the previous season.

Sub-clause (6) provides for the amount of any interim advance to be deducted from the subsequent advance.

Sub-clause 21(7) provides for the deduction of the Wheat Finance Fund levy and the Wheat Tax contribution from the payment to the grower.

Sub-clause 21(8) restricts the advance payment arrangements to the five seasons ending 1983-84.

#### Final payment for wheat

Sub-clauses 22(1) and 22(2) provide that where the net pool return exceeds the guaranteed minimum price the final payment will be the difference between the two.

Sub-clause 22(3) ensures that a grower will receive the full GMP payment entitlement when the net pool return is below the guaranteed minimum price.

Sub-clause 22(4) allows the Board to make advances against the final payment with the approval of the Minister.

At 22(4) the ability of the Board, subject to Ministerial approval, to make discounted payments is preserved.

Sub-clause 22(5) restricts the operation of this section to the first five seasons.

#### Final Payment for Wheat of Last Two Seasons

Clause 23 makes provision for the final payment for the seasons 1984-85 and 1985-86 not covered by the GMP/advance payments. The clause provides that the final payment is to be the difference between the amount paid by the Board as an advance and the net pool return rate.

#### Payment by Board

Clause 24 provides the Board with safeguards as to liability and assignments.

#### Declaration to be furnished as to old season's wheat

Clause 25 carries forward a provision in existing legislation. It preserves the proper season's identity of wheat acquired by the Board.

Sub-clause 25(2) provides for consideration of wheat produced in seasons prior to the operation of the proposed arrangements.

PART V - SALE OF WHEAT BY THE BOARD FOR USE OR  
CONSUMPTION IN AUSTRALIA

Home Consumption Price of Wheat

Clause 26 sets out the prices at which the Board will sell wheat for use or consumption in Australia over the next five years under a contract made in a Territory.

Sub-clause 26(2) sets the price for ASW wheat for human consumption at \$127.78 per tonne for the year commencing 1 December 1979. For the next succeeding four years the price will be derived from the formula specified in the Schedule.

Sub-clause 26(3) provides for a loading on the price of wheat for human consumption to meet the cost of shipment of wheat to Tasmania.

Sub-clause 26(4) specify how the prices of wheat for stockfeed and industrial uses is set, i.e. as is determined from time to time by the Board, on a uniform basis throughout Australia

Sub-clause 26(6) and (7) allow the AWB to apply premiums and discounts as well as other allowances to wheats of grades other than ASW. The Board can offer quantity discounts on stockfeed and industrial wheats.

Special Account for Freight to Tasmania

Clause 27 deals with the treatment of the moneys resulting from the loading on the home consumption price of wheat sold for human consumption specified under Sub-clause 25(3). These moneys are placed by the Board in a separate account and are used to meet the cost of shipment of wheat to Tasmania.

Quota Seasons

Clause 28 sets out the mechanism under which wheat delivery quotas would operate during a season proclaimed to be a quota season under Section 5. It also provides that the pool for a quota season will only consist of quota wheat, wheat that has been declared by the Board to have been sold at a premium, and certain wheat of an earlier quota season.

PART VI - MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

Membership of Board

Clause 29 maintains the membership of the Board in the same form as in the 1974 legislation.

Acting Chairman

Clause 30 provides that the Board may appoint an Acting Chairman from among the members of the Board to exercise the powers and functions of the Chairman when the office of Chairman is vacant or when the Chairman is absent from duty or from Australia or is unable to perform the functions of his office. This is a new provision.

Remuneration and Allowances

Clause 31 provides that members of the Board shall be paid such remuneration as is determined by the Remuneration Tribunal or, in the absence of a determination by the Tribunal such remuneration as is prescribed. This is a standard clause.

Resignation

Clause 32, a standard clause, provides that a member may resign his office by advising the Minister in writing.

Leave of Absence for Chairman

Clause 33 provides that the Minister may grant leave of absence to the Chairman on such terms and conditions as the Minister determines.

Termination of Appointment

Clause 34 empowers the Minister to terminate the appointment of members of the Board by reason of misbehaviour, physical or mental incapacity, bankruptcy, failure to disclose pecuniary interests and absence from three consecutive meetings. Also, in the case of the Chairman, if he engages in outside paid employment without the consent of the Minister or is absent for 14 consecutive days or 28 days in any 12 months without the consent of the Minister.

Disclosure of interests by Members

Clause 35 follows standard provisions in this matter. The Clause provides that a member of the Board shall disclose any pecuniary interest in a matter being considered by the Board, other than his interest as a member of an incorporated company which consists of more than 25 persons and of which he is not a director.

Should such a disclosure be made, it shall be recorded and that member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Board with respect to the matter and that member shall be disregarded when a quorum is constituted for any such deliberation or decision.

Interests exempted are that of a wheatgrower in common with other wheatgrowers; and that concerning a matter in respect of wheat and wheat products being considered in the ordinary course of the business of the Board.

#### Meetings of Board

Clause 36 relates to procedural matters of Board meetings and in general follows standard provisions.

#### Executive Committee

Clause 37 is self-explanatory. There is provision for an Executive Committee in existing legislation.

#### Indemnity

Clause 38, a standard provision, determines that a member of the Board is not personally liable for an act of the Board or of a member acting on the Board's behalf.

#### Appointment of Officers

Clause 39 deals with the appointment of staff by the Board and the terms and conditions that apply. It includes a standard provision concerning officer's rights.

### PART VII - FINANCE

#### Wheat Finance Fund

Clause 40 continues the Wheat Prices Stabilization Fund in existence under the name of the Wheat Finance Fund and provides for moneys and investments of the former to be considered as part of the Wheat Finance Fund.

#### Moneys to be paid into Fund

Clause 41 appropriates from Consolidated Revenue into the Fund an amount equivalent to moneys collected under the Wheat Levy Acts, and provides for interest on Fund investments to be paid to the Fund.

Purpose of Fund

Under Clause 42 the purpose of the Fund is to provide moneys that may be borrowed by the Board in accordance with Sub-clause 44(2) (below). In general terms the Fund may be used by the Board to repay its borrowings from the Reserve Bank. Investment of moneys in the Fund is provided for.

Application of Excess Moneys in Fund

Clause 43 places a ceiling of \$100 million on the Wheat Finance Fund and provides for any excess to be returned to growers by one of two methods depending on the manner in which the contributions to the Fund were received.

If the excess to be returned to growers was derived from, or was a part of contributions to the Wheat Prices Stabilization Fund, then payment out of the fund are to be treated by the Board as part of the proceeds of the pool for which contributions were made.

If the excess was derived from levy payments under the proposed arrangements then the levy recouped will be paid directly to growers according to their contributions.

Sub-clause 43(6) provides that the balance in the Fund at the expiry of the proposed arrangements is not to be paid to the Board if the Minister informs the Minister for Finance that moneys in the Fund are, or may be needed for a new scheme.

Raising of moneys by Board

Clause 44 details the Board's borrowing powers.

Sub-clause 44(1) authorizes the Minister to arrange for the Board to borrow from the Reserve Bank for the purposes of paying the GMP as a first advance and meeting the marketing expenses of the season. It also provides that a Commonwealth guarantee can be given in respect of those borrowings. It also precludes AWB from borrowing from RCD for purpose of interim advance payments but provides for RCD funds to be used to repay interim commercial borrowings made for the purpose of those interim advance payments.

Sub-clause 44(2) allows the Board to borrow from the Wheat Finance Fund in order to repay Reserve Bank drawings outstanding as at 31. March, taken as the end date for the 12 months' statutory period applying to RCD borrowings by the Wheat Board.

44(3) authorizes the Board to borrow commercially by the issuing of securities.

Sub-clause 44(4) allows the Minister to include the commercial paper referred to in (3) in a specified class of securities.

Sub-clause 44(5) allows the Board to borrow moneys from sources other than the Reserve Bank, the Wheat Finance Fund or by the issuing of securities.

If the Minister specifies certain classes of securities by publishing a notice in the Gazette, Sub-clause 44(6) attaches a Commonwealth guarantee to those securities. The purpose behind this Sub-clause is to allow borrowings by the Board by the issuing of commercial Bills at the request of the Government for financing first advance payments and marketing expenses that would otherwise have been financed through the Reserve Bank and for the purpose of an early repayment of Reserve Bank borrowings to be guaranteed by the Government. The other parts of these provisions deal with reimbursement of borrowing costs (Clause 46) and the exemption of these securities from stamp duties and other taxes (Clause 53).

Sub-clause 44(7) allows the Minister to issue a Commonwealth guarantee in respect of borrowings made under Sub-clause (5) i.e. commercial borrowings other than the issue of securities.

Sub-clause 44(8) specifies that Commonwealth guarantees will not attach to commercial borrowings made by the AWB for the purpose of interim advance payments.

Sub-clause 44(9) provides a definition of expenses of borrowing for the purposes of any Commonwealth guarantees issued under this Clause.

#### Rate of interest on loans from Fund

Clause 45 sets the rate of interest on the Board's borrowings from the Wheat Finance Fund as the rate fixed by the Minister, having regard to rates that would be earned by investments in Commonwealth securities or Reserve Bank fixed deposits.

#### Amounts payable to Board in respect of Commercial Borrowings

Clause 46 provides for the AWB to be reimbursed the difference between the cost of borrowing on the commercial market and from the Reserve Bank where the borrowing has been carried out at the Government's request and is in lieu of borrowing from the Reserve Bank or is for the purpose of refinancing a loan from the Reserve Bank, otherwise than at the end of the 12 month statutory period applicable to such borrowings.

Sub-clauses 46(1) and (2) provide for the Board to be reimbursed the difference in interest and borrowing costs between Reserve Bank borrowings and commercial borrowings where the borrowings are for first advance payments or marketing expenses.

Sub-clause 46(3) provides for the Board to be reimbursed the difference in interest between Reserve Bank and commercial borrowings and the total cost of commercial borrowing where the purpose of the borrowing is to repay a loan from the Reserve Bank. The total of the borrowing costs of the commercial borrowing is reimbursed because it is the second borrowing and the Board has already met the borrowing costs in relation to the first Reserve Bank borrowing.

Sub-clauses 46(4) and (5) are the "definitions" sub-clauses in relation to this Clause. Commercial borrowings in this section are defined in a manner that excludes AWB borrowings for interim advance payments from being eligible for cost reimbursement payments by the Commonwealth to the Board.

#### Credit Sales in Accordance with Direction

Clause 47 provides that, if the Minister directs the Board to extend credit terms beyond those which the Board would have allowed on a strictly commercial basis, the Commonwealth will make good any loss arising from the default of the purchaser that the Board incurs within the extended period of credit. The Clause also provides for any necessary appropriation for this purpose. There is an identical provision in existing legislation.

#### Discounting of letters of Credit

Clause 48 requires the Board to obtain the Minister's approval before discounting, on a without recourse basis, of letters of credit and similar documents.

#### Payment to Board where guaranteed minimum price exceeds net pool return rate

Clause 49 provides that where the guaranteed minimum price is higher than the net pool return, the difference will be paid to the Board.

#### Advances

Under Clause 50 the Minister for Finance is permitted to make advances from the Minister for Finance's Advance in respect of moneys that the Board expects to receive under Sections 46 or 49. Provision is also made for overpayment to be recouped.



### Appropriation

Clause 51 provides for Consolidated Revenue to be appropriated as necessary, to make payments to the Board for reimbursement of borrowing costs and for the purpose of meeting Commonwealth commitments under the GMP arrangements.

### Application of moneys of Board

Clause 52 contains standard provisions in respect of the application of moneys by the Board.

### Liability to Taxation

Sub-clauses 53(1) to (3) are in the existing legislation. They specify that the Board is not liable to Commonwealth taxation (other than income tax) or State or Territorial taxes unless this latter exemption is removed by regulation.

Sub-clauses 53(4) and (5) specifically authorize the Minister to declare securities of the Wheat Board as being not subject to taxation of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory when issued by the Board or traded subsequently by other persons.

### Application to Board of Division 2 of Part XI of Audit Act

Clause 54 applies to the Wheat Board standard provisions of the Audit Act that have been modified in three respects. These are:

- The Reserve Bank of Australia is to be regarded as an "approved bank"
- The AWB shall submit its annual report and financial statements by the 30 June following the end of its financial year on 30 November. However, in respect of any year and having regard to the circumstances of this year, the Minister is enabled to extend to a later date, the date by which the AWB is required to report.
- Directions given by the Minister to the Board are to be set out in the Annual Report.

### Remuneration and allowances of licensed receivers

Clause 55 allows the Board to enter into agreements with its licensed receivers in respect of remuneration payable for services and facilities made available, such remuneration to cover expenses incurred by the licensed receiver in the administration of quotas. Existing agreements are continued in force.

PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

Operation of State Laws

Clause 56 enables the complementary powers, etc in State legislation to be conferred on the Board.

Establishment of consultative groups

Clause 56A provides for the AWB to establish consultative groups and for the Minister to determine the terms and conditions of employment of people appointed to the consultative groups. One such group is expected to be convened to consider the accuracy, comprehensiveness and relevance of data that the Board should take into account in determining prices for stockfeed and industrial uses wheat. The group will not determine price levels.

Appointment of Authorized Persons

Clause 57 enables the Board or Chairman to appoint people to be regarded as "authorized persons" for the purposes of specified provisions of the Act.

Information to be furnished

Clause 58 empowers the Board to require information to be furnished to it for the purposes of the Act. Sub-clause 58(3) is a standard provision. The proposed clause is substantially similar to that provided in the Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1974.

Proper care to be taken of Wheat owned by Board

Clause 59 is self-explanatory.

Access to premises

Clause 60 sets out the conditions under which an authorized person can enter premises and details the functions of an authorized person under this Clause. The provisions are standard access and inspection ones. They have been carried forward from the Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1974.

Validation of certain payments to State Corporations

Clause 61 validates certain payments by the Board to bulk handling authorities that were made before Ministerial agreements that authorised the payments were concluded.

Regulations

Clause 62 is self-explanatory

SCHEDULE

The schedule to the Bill contains the formula for determining the home consumption price for wheat for human consumption exclusive of the freight to Tasmania loading. The formula adjusts each year's price in line with movements in export prices and domestic costs and provides over time, for a margin above f.o.b. export prices. There is provision that the price ascertained in accordance with the formula will not vary by more than 20% from one year to the next.