# Abattoir and Meat Inspection (Amendment) Bill

## NOTES ON CLAUSES

*Clause* 1 contains the usual citation and commencement provisions, and allows the Act to be brought into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council.

*Clause* 2 amends the Principal Act by inserting five new sub-sections in section 10. Section 10 of the Principal Act places a statutory obligation on the Director-General of Agriculture to provide meat inspection services for every meat establishment licensed under the Act. The Director-General is authorized to collect meat inspection fees, and in the event of non-payment, to recover the debt in a Magistrate's Court. These provisions are being used by some meat establishments to avoid payment of meat inspection fees until legal proceedings are about to be commenced for recovery of the debt.

The proposed new sub-section (4) allows the Director-General to serve notice on the manager of a meat establishment of intention to withdraw meat inspection services from the meat establishment concerned unless the amount of the outstanding fees (to be specified in the notice) is paid by the date stated in the notice. The Bill requires this date to be at least fourteen days from the date of the notice.

Proposed new sub-section (5) requires the Director-General to supply a copy of any such notice to the owner of the meat establishment.

Proposed new sub-section (6) requires the Director-General to withdraw meat inspection services from the meat establishment concerned until such time as he receives payment of the amount specified in the notice. Since meat that has not been inspected and branded at a licensed meat establishment can not be sold for human consumption, the establishment will have to cease operations.

Proposed new sub-sections (7) and (8) relate to the method of service of notices.

*Clause* 3 amends sections 21 (6) and 34 (6) of the Principal Act. Section 21 (6) of the Principal Act provides that applications for the renewal of a licence to operate a meat establishment are to be made before 23 September prior to the date on which the renewal is due. Since all the licences expire on 30 September there is a practical difficulty in dealing with the applications within seven days.

The word "August" is therefore to be substituted for the word "September".

*Section* 34 (6) of the Principal Act contains similar provisions relating to renewal of licences for knackeries, pet food establishments and retail pet meat shops and a similar amendment is proposed.

By Authority F D Atkinson Government Printer Melbourne

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