

# Public Authorities (Dividends) Bill 1983

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

*Clause 1*—This provides for the citation of this Act.

*Clause 2*—This provides the commencement dates for when different provisions of this Act come into operation.

*Clause 3*—This sets out the objective of the legislation.

*Clause 4*—

Sub-clause (1): This names the five public authorities covered by the legislation and establishes the basis for the determination of "Public Equity".

Sub-clause (2): This provides for the value of the components of "Public Equity" to be determined by the Treasurer after consultation with the Minister responsible for the public authority.

Sub-clause (3): This excludes advances or loans made to a public authority out of the Public Account from public equity for the purposes of this Act.

*Clause 5*—

Sub-clause (1): This provides for a dividend of up to 5 per centum of its public equity to be transferred annually to the Consolidated Fund by each authority.

Sub-clause (2): This provides for the Treasurer and the public authority to agree to the timings and manner of the payment of the dividend.

Sub-clause (3): This specifies the dividends to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund in the financial year ending 30 June 1984, viz. \$103 900 000 for the State Electricity Commission, \$55 000 000 for the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, \$25 000 000 for the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria, \$6 000 000 for the Port of Melbourne Authority, and \$4 000 000 for the Grain Elevators Board.

Sub-clause (4): This provides for contributions transferred to the Consolidated Fund pursuant to section 3 of the *Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966* to be treated as payments made pursuant to this section and credited against the dividend required to be transferred to the Consolidated Fund by that public authority.

*Clause 6*—This clause provides for the Treasurer to determine the reporting of the dividend in the financial statements prepared by a public authority.

*Clause 7*—

Sub-clause (1): This substitutes a new section 2 in the *Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966* naming the one authority to be covered by the legislation, and substitutes a new sub-section (1) of section 3 of the *Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966* which provides for monthly transfers to the Consolidated Fund by the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria.

Sub-clause (2): This provides two months in which the Gas and Fuel Corporation can make up the shortfalls in payments made under the existing provisions of the *Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966* and those that should have been made under these new provisions.

*Clause 8*—This provides for the repeal of section 72 of the *Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958*.

*Clause 9*—This provides for the repeal of section 5 of the *Public Authorities (Contributions) (Amendment) Act 1983* which provides for the *Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966* to expire on 31 December 1983.

By Authority F D Atkinson Government Printer Melbourne