

1982

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
House of Representatives

Dried Fruits Export Charges Amendment Bill 1982

Explanatory Memorandum

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

Outline

This Bill seeks to raise the ceiling for the export charge levied on dried currants, sultanas and raisins, the present rate of charge being equal to the maximum allowable under existing legislation.

Provision is made for consultations to be held between the Department of Primary Industry and the relevant producers' organisation before any future adjustment of the rate of charge

Certain unnecessary words incorporated in the existing Act are also deleted for simplification.

Explanation

No. of Clause

2. This clause provides for the Act to come into effect on the day on which it receives Royal Assent.
3. This clause defines the identity of the producers' organisation referred to in Clause 5. It also leaves the way open for the Department to deal with an organisation other than the Australian Dried Fruits Association if this proves necessary.
- 4(a) This subclause carries forward the present operative rate of charge at 0.7 cents per kilogram (\$7.00 per tonne) while establishing 1.5 cents per kilogram (\$15.00 per tonne) as the new ceiling. It also provides that any prescribed rate not exceeding the ceiling is allowable.
- The second sub-section of this clause permits the imposition of different rates of charge on the three kinds of dried fruits. This might be appropriate, for instance, should a significant differential develop in their respective prices. At present there is not a large variation and a uniform rate of export charge applies to all three varieties.
- 4(b) This subclause refers to sub-section 3(3) of the Principal Act which states:
- "All moneys payable under this section in respect of any dried fruits shall be paid to such officers in the respective States as are prescribed".
- The identification of the officers to whom the charge is to be paid is in fact now dealt with administratively. The clause now proposed omits the phrase referring to prescribed officers, in the interests of simplification.
5. This clause amends the scope of regulations that may be made under the Principal Act by
- (a) including provision for regulations to prescribe other matters besides rates of charge, and
 - (b) describing procedures for altering the operative rates of charge.

The first of these changes would allow prescription of matters required or permitted by the Act to be prescribed, or matters necessary or convenient to be prescribed to give effect to the Act. The second would ensure that the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation has reported on any proposed alteration to the rate of charge, and that the producers' organisation has been consulted on any such proposal, before regulations altering the rate of charge are made.

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