

1985

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DRIED VINE FRUITS EQUALIZATION LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for
Primary Industry, the Hon. John Kerin, MP)

OUTLINE

The amendments proposed in this Bill to be made to the Dried Vine Fruits Equalization Levy Act 1978 require that the Minister will determine any equalization levy for a variety of dried vine fruit in a season at such an amount that the equalization payment distributing the proceeds of the levy for that variety to the industry is unlikely to exceed an amount forming a specified percentage of the average return for exports of that variety in that season.

The Minister is to consult the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation on its estimates of production, exports, local sales and average export return for each variety in each season, before he determines the rate of levy.

The specified percentages for each variety are to be phased down in regular steps over the seasons from 1986, to 15 percent by the 1990 season.

The amendments provide for more stable assistance through equalization and make the industry more responsive to market signals.

The changed arrangements will not have any financial impact on Government revenues and expenditures. They will reduce the revenue collected from the industry as equalization levy, which is paid out in full to the industry as equalization payments.

DRIED VINE FRUITS EQUALIZATION LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985NOTES ON CLAUSES

CLAUSE 1: Short title, etc

CLAUSE 2: Rate of Levy

1. This clause adds to the Principal Act a sub-clause which requires that from 1986 season onwards, the Minister will determine any equalization levy for a variety in a season at an amount which he considers will result in the consequent equalization payment being unlikely to exceed an amount corresponding to a specified percentage of the average export return for that variety in that season.
2. Provision is made for the Minister to consult the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation on its estimates of production, exports, local sales and average export return for each variety in each season, before he determines the rate of levy.
3. Percentages are prescribed for each variety for each season, phasing down to 15 percent in the 1990 season.