

1987

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FISHING INDUSTRY RESEARCH AMENDMENT BILL 1987

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by authority of the Minister for Primary Industry,

the Hon. John Kerin

FISHING INDUSTRY RESEARCH AMENDMENT BILL 1987

GENERAL OUTLINE

This Bill is associated with the Fishing Industry Research and Development Bill 1987, which assumes the functions of providing for the Commonwealth's activities with respect to fisheries research and development.

The Government has decided that the funds remaining in the Fishing Industry Research Account (FIRTA) established by the Fishing Industry Research Act 1969, which this Bill amends, are to be applied to the acquisition of a fisheries research vessel for use by the CSIRO Division of Fisheries Research. Should the funds not be so applied within a reasonable time, the Ministers for Primary Industry and Finance will confer about their disposal.

Against this background, the Bill amends the Fishing Industry Research Act 1969 to remove the appropriation to FIRTA and all related provisions and to abolish the Fishing Industry Research Committee. The shell remaining after those deletions continues FIRTA as an account from which the Minister may approve expenditures and requires the Minister to report to Parliament on the operations of the principal Act.

Following the clearing of the funds from FIRTA, the principal Act will be repealed.

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NOTES ON CLAUSES

No. of Clause	Explanation
1	Short Title - Self explanatory. The <u>Fishing Industry and Research Act 1969</u> is the principal Act.
2	Commencement - The Bill comes into force on Royal Assent.
3	Interpretation - Deletes all the existing definitions from the principal Act except "fishing industry" and "Research Account", which remain unaltered.
4	Repeal of sections 4 and 5 - Repeals the provisions of the principal Act providing for the Minister to determine approved research funds under State laws with respect to fisheries and approved moneys in those approved funds.
5	Money to be paid into Research Account - Repeals the appropriation to the Research Account.
6	Application of the Research Account - Repeals the provision restricting the matters for which the Minister may approve expenditure from the Research Account to matters that the Research Committee has recommended.
7	Repeal of sections 10 to 18 (inclusive) - Repeals the provisions establishing and providing for the operation of the Research Committee.
8	Annual Report - Requires the Minister to report on the operation of the Act each financial year and to table the report in both Houses of the Parliament.