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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FISHERIES LICENCES LEVY BILL 1984
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

OUTLINE

Fisheries Licences Levy Bill 1984

This Bill imposes a levy on prescribed classes of licences and endorsements under the Fisheries Act 1952 and licences and entries under the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984. The amount of levy is to be specified in or calculated in accordance with the regulations and may be different for different classes of licences, endorsements or entries.

The holder of a licence is liable to pay levy at the time of the grant of the licence.

The levy will be imposed to cover all or an agreed part of the costs of implementing management plans in fisheries for which the Commonwealth has a major responsibility and which will offer long-term benefits to the industry. Rates of levy and percentage of cost recovery will be determined in the light of the costs and benefits that flow from that management. Initial levies to be imposed in respect of boats in the northern prawn fishery will be set at a level to finance a licence entitlement buy-back scheme, and agreed management measures. The maximum total cost of the buy-back scheme has been estimated at above \$13m or about \$2.2 m over a 6 year period. These costs will be recovered by way of levy on the industry imposed under this Act. The ratio of net benefits to the levy payable by individual fishermen is estimated to be of the ratio of 2:1. Other levies have still to be determined in consultation with the States and industry groups.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

NO. OF
CLAUSE

1. Short title.
2. Entry into force on a date fixed by Proclamation.
3. "Fisheries Licence" means a licence under the Fisheries Act 1952 or the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984.
4. Act applies in and beyond Australia and in every external Territory.
5. Imposes levy on boat licences and endorsements of boat licences under the Fisheries Act 1952 and on boat licences, renewals of boat licences and entries in boat licences under the Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984, being in each case licences, endorsements or entries in a class prescribed for the purpose of imposing levy.
6. The amount of levy is as specified in, or calculated in accordance with, the regulations and may be different for different classes of licences, renewals, endorsements or entries.
7. The holder of the licence is liable to pay the levy at the time of the grant or renewal of the licence or the making of the endorsement or entry in the licence, as the case may be.
8. Power to make regulations for purposes of sections 5 and 6.

