

1995

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR-GENERAL AMENDMENT BILL 1995

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Prime Minister, the Hon P J Keating MP)



GOVERNOR-GENERAL AMENDMENT BILL 1995

OUTLINE

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the salary of the Governor-General, effective from the appointment of the next Governor-General.

Section 3 of the Constitution provides that the salary of a Governor-General shall not be altered during his continuance in office.

The *Governor-General Act 1974* provided, when enacted, that the annual sum payable for the salary of the Governor-General was \$30,000. The Act was amended to increase the sum payable to \$37,000 in 1977, to \$70,000 in 1982, and to \$95,000 in 1988.

This Bill amends the *Governor-General Act 1974* to change the sum payable for salary of the Governor-General from \$95,000 to \$58,000. The amendment will not take effect until the current Governor-General has left office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The current Governor-General will leave office on 15 February 1996. This Bill will result in decreased expenditure of approximately \$13,600 in 1995-96 and \$37,000 in 1996-97 and subsequent financial years.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 Short Title

This clause provides for the Act to be cited as the *Governor-General Amendment Act 1995*.

Clause 2 Commencement

This clause provides for the Act to commence on Royal Assent.

Clause 3 Schedule

This clause provides that the *Governor-General Act 1974* shall be amended in accordance with the Schedule and that item 2 of the Schedule shall have effect in accordance with its own terms.

SCHEDULE

Item 1

Section 3 of the *Governor-General Act 1974* provides that the annual sum payable for the salary of the Governor-General shall be \$95,000.

Item 1 omits the annual sum of "\$95,000" and substitutes a new annual sum of "\$58,000". The sum is being reduced, at the request of the Governor-General designate to take account of a non-contributory Commonwealth pension which he will continue to receive while in the office of Governor-General.

Item 2

Item 2 provides that amendments made by the *Governor-General Amendment Act 1995* will not have effect until the current Governor-General leaves office. This provision is included because Section 3 of the Constitution provides that the salary of the Governor-General shall not be altered during his continuance in office.