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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
OILSEEDS LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1994

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Primary
Industries and Energy, Senator the Hon Bob Collins)

OILSEEDS LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1994

GENERAL OUTLINE

1. This Bill provides for amendments to the Oilseeds Levy Act 1977 (the Act) to ensure that oilseeds used by a producer on-farm for commercial purposes are not exempt for the purpose of research levy payment. Levy revenue attracts matching Commonwealth contributions and is used to fund grain legumes research programs. The funding program is administered by the Grains Research and Development Corporation.
2. Presently, producers are exempt from paying levy where the total levy payable is less than the leviable amount for that levy year and where the oilseed was processed by the producer and used on-farm for domestic purposes.
3. The Grains Council of Australia (GCA), which is the representative organisation under the legislation, is concerned to ensure that the exemption for oilseeds 'used on-farm for domestic purposes' does not include, for example, an oilseed producer who establishes an intensive animal production unit on-farm and sources his stockfeed requirements internally. Consistent with the legislation applying to other grains under the Wheat Industry Fund Levy Act 1989 and the Coarse Grains Levy Act 1992, the amendment clarifies that such commercial operations carried out on-farm are liable for levy payment and facilitates levy collection and administrative arrangements.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

4. The amendment will have no impact on levy collections or the Budget additional to those already prescribed by the Act.

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL CLAUSES

Clause 1 : Short title

5. Provides for this Bill to be cited as the Oilseeds Levy Amendment Act 1994. It also provides that "Principal Act" means Oilseeds Levy Act 1977.

Clause 2 : Commencement

6. Provides for the Act to commence on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 : Exemption from Levy

7. Provides for exemptions from the levy, under section 8 of the Principal Act, for oilseeds used on-farm by the grower for domestic purposes but not for commercial purposes.



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