

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STEVEDORING INDUSTRY LEVY
AMENDMENT BILL 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister
for Employment and Industrial Relations,
the Hon Ralph Willis MP)

OUTLINE

STEVEDORING INDUSTRY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985

The Bill seeks to amend the Stevedoring Industry Levy Act 1977 to enable a flexible approach to be taken in setting the rate of levy applicable to local cargo loaded into ships.

Accordingly, the Bill provides:

- (i) that the amount of special levy applicable to local cargo (loaded) may be prescribed by regulation;
- (ii) that the amount so prescribed may be up to, but not more than, an amount equivalent to 75% of the amount of levy per tonne applicable to overseas cargo (loaded or unloaded), which is the rate of levy currently applicable under the Act to local cargo (loaded).

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The amendments will not result in any significant costs or revenue to the Commonwealth. The special levy on local cargo (loaded) is paid by employers in the industry and periodically redistributed to the industry through the Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee, which is constituted under the provisions of the Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Act 1977.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

CLAUSE 1

This clause provides for the short title of the Bill.

CLAUSE 2

This clause amends section 7 of the Principal Act to enable the rate of special levy per tonne of local cargo loaded into ships to be set by regulation. The amount so prescribed may be up to, but not greater than, an amount equivalent to 75% of the amount per tonne applicable to overseas cargo loaded into or unloaded from ships.

At present section 7 provides that the rate of special levy on local cargo (loaded) shall be 75% of the amount of levy applicable to overseas cargo (loaded or unloaded). The section therefore does not allow any flexibility in setting the rate of special levy on local cargo (loaded). The amendment will enable a flexible approach to the setting of such levy, while ensuring that any amount prescribed does not exceed the rate currently applicable under section 7.

Note: No commencement date is specified in the Bill. This means that the amendment will come into operation 28 days after the Bill receives the Royal Assent. The amendment has been drafted to ensure that the present rate of levy applicable to local cargo (loaded) shall continue to apply until such time as a different amount is prescribed by regulation.

