

1984

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER LEVY AMENDMENT BILL  
1984

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by Authority of the Minister  
for Primary Industry the Hon John Kerin, MP)

## OUTLINE

The purpose of the Live-stock Slaughter Levy Amendment Bill 1984, which amends the Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964, is to redefine the process by which the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation (AMLC) consults with industry prior to making recommendations to the Minister for varying the rate of slaughter levy.

Under this Bill the consultation process is to be through the AMLC's annual general meeting (AGM). Any proposal of the AMLC to make a recommendation to the Minister for varying the rate of slaughter levy must first be put before the AGM. This process replaces arrangements for industry consultation through the Consultative Groups which are abolished under the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984.

Interim arrangements are included in the Bill to permit the AMLC to vary the rate of slaughter levy pending the first AGM. Under the interim arrangements the AMLC is required to consult with those industry organisations previously represented on the Consultative Groups.

Proposals in respect of levies for research purposes are to be made direct to the Minister by the Australian Meat Research Committee after undergoing a similar industry consultation process.

## NOTES ON CLAUSES

### Clauses 1 and 2

1. The first two clauses of the Bill provide for the short title and commencement of the legislation. The provisions of the Bill, other than sub-clause 4(2), will come into effect on the date fixed by Proclamation for the commencement of the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Act 1984
2. Sub-clause 4(2) will be brought into effect on a later date when the first AMLC annual general meeting is held as provided for in the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984.

### Clause 3: Interpretation

3. This clause deletes the definition of "Exporter and Abattoir Consultative Group" and "Producer Consultative Group". The need for this amendment arises because under the Australian Meat and Live-stock Amendment Bill 1984 these bodies will be abolished.

### Clause 4: Regulations

4. Amends Section 8 of the Principal Act

Paragraph 4 (1) (a)

5. The process by which advice is to be provided to the Governor-General in the exercise of his power to make regulations to prescribe rates of levy is redefined. That advice is to be provided by the Executive Council taking into consideration any recommendations furnished to the Minister by the AMLC in respect of levies that fund its operation and the Australian Meat Research Committee (AMRC) in respect of levies that are used to fund research
  
6. As the AMLC has no responsibilities in the area of research funding it is inappropriate for proposals to change research levies to be considered by the Corporation's annual general meeting. Hence the new provision is included in this sub-paragraph for the AMRC to make recommendations on research levies direct to the Minister.

Paragraph 4 (1) (b)

7. Section 8(3) of the Act is amended to delete reference to the Consultative Groups which are abolished by the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984 and to provide an interim arrangement, pending the holding of the annual general meeting of the AMLC, requiring the AMLC to consult directly with the industry organisation that have been represented on the Consultative Groups, before making a recommendation to the Minister.

Paragraph 4 (1) (c)

8. Section 8(4) of the Act is amended to delete reference to the Consultative Groups which are abolished by the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984. The AMRC is required to consult directly with the industry organisations that have been represented on the Consultative Groups before making a recommendation to the Minister.

Paragraphs 4(2) (a) and (b)

9. On Proclamation of sub-section 4(2) the interim arrangements embodied in sub-section 8(2) and 8(3) of the Principal Act by sub-section 4(1) of this Bill will terminate. Paragraphs 4(2) (a) and (b) will substitute the process whereby any proposal of the AMLC to make a recommendation to the Minister for varying the rate of slaughter levy must first be put before the AGM of industry as required in the Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment Bill 1984.
10. In making a recommendation to the Minister the Corporation will be required to inform the Minister of the voting at the AGM on the proposal to change the rate of levy.

