

# Water (Advances) Bill

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### Outline

This Bill provides irrigation relief for Victorian dairy farmers and other irrigators in the Shepparton, Rodney, Tongala, Rochester, Pyramid Hill and Boort Irrigation Areas and also to licensed diverters from the Goulburn and Loddon River systems who have exhausted their water entitlements for the 1984–85 irrigation season due to the extremely dry conditions in Northern Victoria.

It will enable these irrigators to use in advance up to 10 per cent of their water entitlement for the 1985–86 irrigation season and for such water to be deducted from next year's entitlement.

### Notes on Clauses

*Clause 1* contains the short title.

*Clause 2* provides for the Act to come into operation on 1 April 1985.

*Clause 3* sets out the interpretations.

*Clause 4* enables owners or occupiers of land in specified irrigation areas to apply to the Rural Water Commission to use in the current year portion of their water right entitlement for the 1985–86 irrigation season.

*Clause 5* provides for the Commission on receipt of the application under *Clause 4* to advance up to 10 per cent of the total volume of water supplied to that land as water rights in the current year and for water so supplied in advance to be deducted from the volume of water available to the land in the next year.

*Clause 6* provides for water advanced to be paid for in the current year at the charge made for the supply of water in the current year.

*Clause 7* provides for any rate certificates issued by the Commission under section 361 of the *Water Act 1958* with respect to holdings which have received water in advance to be endorsed to show the volume of water supplied, the amount liable to be paid and any amount already paid.

*Clause 8* provides that where a person subdivides a holding to which water has been advanced and where such advanced water is still to be deducted from next year's entitlement that the deduction will be made from the water right of each separate holding created by the subdivision on a pro-rata basis.

*Clause 9* provides for the holders of licences to divert water from the Goulburn and Loddon River systems to apply to the Commission to use in the current year portion of their water entitlement for the 1985–86 irrigation season.

*Clause 10* provides for the Commission on receipt of the application under *Clause 9* to advance up to 10 per centum of the total volume of water available to the licence holder in

the current year and for water so supplied in advance to be deducted from the total volume of water available to the land in the next year.

*Clause 11* provides that where a diversion licence is to expire prior to 30 June 1986 and water has been supplied in advance to the holding, for the licence to be extended for one year on the same terms and conditions.

*Clause 12* provides for the Act to cease on 30 June 1986.