

1987

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DRIED FRUITS EXPORT CHARGES AMENDMENT BILL 1987

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister  
for Primary Industries and Energy,  
The Hon John Kerin)



## DRIED FRUITS EXPORT CHARGES AMENDMENT BILL 1987

### OUTLINE

Presently a charge is applied to all dried vine fruits exported from Australia to fund the operations of the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation. The maximum rate of charge is set by the Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1924 and the operative rate by Regulations made in accordance with the provisions of that Act. At present both the maximum and operative rates of charge are set at 1.5 cents per kilogram.

2. The purpose of this Bill is to set a higher maximum rate of charge to enable the operative rate of charge to be increased by Regulations.

3. The amendment was sought by the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation, with industry support, to enable a change in the operative charge rate to provide additional funding for promotional purposes.

4. The cost to the Corporation of promoting Australian dried vine fruit on overseas markets has increased significantly in recent times as a consequence of the devaluation of the Australian dollar and wider promotion activity.

5. The only amendment is to sub-section 3(2) of the Principal Act; it increases the rate of charge from 1.5 cents to 3 cents a kilogram.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

6. The amendment proposed in the Bill has no impact on Government revenue or expenditure.

7. Any increase in revenue as a result of any subsequent change to the operative charge rate will be offset by a matching increase in appropriation to fund the Australian Dried Fruits Corporation.

### ABBREVIATIONS

8. The following abbreviations are used in this Explanatory Memorandum :

Principal Act : Dried Fruits Export Charges Act 1924

Regulations : Dried Fruits Export Charges Regulations.

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NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 : Short title, etc

Clause 2 : Commencement

Clause 2 provides that this Act shall come into operation on the day it receives Royal Assent. However, increased operative rates of charge will not apply until appropriate changes are made by way of Regulations.

Clause 3 : Charge on export of dried fruits

The maximum rate of charge specified in the Principal Act is being increased from 1.5 cents a kg (\$15 a tonne) to 3 cents a kg (\$30 per tonne). At present the maximum rate of charge and the operative rate of charge are the same. An increase in the maximum rate of charge will enable an increase in the operative rate of charge to be effected by Regulations. The Australian Dried Fruits Corporation, with industry support, has sought an increase in the operative rate of charge so that it can maintain an effective promotional program on overseas markets.