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AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVE-STOCK CORPORATION BILL 1977

Date Introduced: 26 May 1977  
House: House of Representatives  
Presented by: Rt. Honourable I. Sinclair,  
Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To replace the Australian Meat Board with an Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation, with enhanced powers for buying and exporting meat and livestock and controlling private exports of meat and livestock

Main Provisions

Clause 3 provides for the repealing of the Meat Industry Act 1964, the Meat Industry Act 1965 and the Meat Industry Act 1969 (sub-clause 1) and the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the Board to the new Corporation (sub-clause 2)

Clause 6 provides for the establishment of an Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation. The Corporation will replace the Australian Meat Board and will retain most of the powers of the Board with some changes being made.

Clause 9 will confer on the Corporation the power to purchase meat or live-stock and to export or sell for export, meat or live-stock which it owns.

The Corporation will also have the power to control exports by the granting of export licences (clause 10) subject to conditions, and the giving of directions by the Corporation, on such matters as the quantity and type of meat or live-stock that may be exported (paragraph 11(2)(a)), the terms of such exports including the price of meat or live-stock (paragraph 11(2)(b)), the destination of such exports (paragraph 11(2)(c)) and the method of carriage and handling of such exports (paragraph 11(2)(e)). The Minister may give directions to the Corporation in relation to licences but not about the directions the Corporation may give (sub-clauses 11(3), (4) and (5)). The Corporation will have the power to cancel or suspend export licences (sub-clause 12(1)). In such cases, the licensee may appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for review of the Corporation's decision (sub-clause 12(4)), as is the case if an application for a licence is refused (sub-clause 10(5)). The Corporation will be able to operate quota schemes for the export of meat and may allow quotas to be transferred amongst licensees (sub-clauses 13(1) and 13(2)).

Clause 18 provides for the Corporation to consist of 9 members, namely a Chairman, four members to represent Australian live-stock producers, one member to represent

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Australian meat exporters, one member to represent the Commonwealth and two other members. All members will be appointed by the Minister (sub-clause 18(2)). Before appointing the Chairman and the two other members, the Minister will consult the Producer Consultative Group and the Exporter and Abattoir Consultative Group (sub-clause 18(5)), and under clause 21, the two other members must have relevant experience. The producer representatives will be appointed from amongst persons whose names are included in a list of names submitted to the Minister by the Producer Consultative Group (sub-clause 19(1)), with the Minister requesting additional names if he thinks fit (sub-clause 19(2)). The meat exporter representative will be appointed from amongst persons whose names are included in a list of names submitted to the Minister by the Exporter and Abattoir Consultative Group (sub-clause 20(1)), with the Minister requesting additional names if he thinks fit (sub-clause 20(2)).

Clause 34 provides for the appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, for payment to the Corporation, of that portion of the levies collected under the Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964 and the Live-stock Export Charge Act 1977, for the purpose of financing the administration of the Corporation.

Clause 41 provides for the establishment of the Live-stock Producers Consultative Group, the Meat and Live-stock Exporters and Abattoir Operators Consultative Group and the Australian Meat Industry Conference.

### Background

The trading powers of the AMLC will be enhanced compared to those of the Board in that, provided the Minister is advised of its trading policy, the Corporation will be permitted to engage in trade (provided it accords with commercial practice, unless the Minister approves otherwise). The Board could only trade after a report had been received from a special committee. In addition, the Corporation will be able to purchase, own and operate facilities overseas related to the export of meat and livestock.

The Board had 10 members (a Chairman, six producer representatives, two meat exporter representatives and one Commonwealth representative). The Corporation will have two less producers, one less exporter and two members with special qualifications, giving a total of nine members. The producers will thus no longer have a majority membership.

The Corporation will have the power to control the export of both meat and live-stock whereas the Board was only concerned with the export of meat.

The Corporation will not have powers relating to the export of pigs and pig meat, unless regulations are made prescribing pigs and pig-meat as included in “livestock” and “meat”. The Board also did not have control over pig meat exports.

31 May 1977

Finance, Industries, Trade and Development Group  
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