Defence Service Homes Amendment Bill 1976

Introduced into the Senate, 17 November 1976 by the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator Durack.

Introduced into the House of Representatives, 3 December 1976, by Hon. K Newman, Minister for Environment, Housing & Community Development and Minister representing the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs.

**Brief Digest of Bill**

To substitute for the Australian Housing Corporation, which has extensive functions and powers and a membership of eight, a Defence Service Homes Corporation whose sole function is to administer the Defence Service Homes Scheme and the affairs of which are to be conducted and controlled by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

**Background**

The Australian Housing Corporation was established by the Labor Government’s Australian Housing Corporation Act 1975 which received Royal Assent on 18 April 1975. The Corporation is a statutory authority designed to participate in the building, sale and lease of dwellings and in the provision of finance for land purchase and dwelling construction. It also assumed the responsibilities of the Director of Defence Service Homes.

The creation of the Australian Housing Corporation was opposed by the Liberal–NCP Opposition on the grounds that it represented an unnecessary and undesirable duplication of services already available, particularly those provided by the State authorities. Their attitude was confirmed following an investigation after coming to power, and on 2 February 1976 the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, announced his intention to abolish the Corporation.

**Provisions**

This Bill seeks to repeal the provisions of the Australian Housing Corporation Act other than those related to the Defence Service Homes Scheme. One effect will be that the Corporation will have no members (clause 8).

The remainder of the Corporation is to be renamed the Defence Service Homes Corporation, continuing as a corporate entity solely for the purpose of administering the Defence Service Homes Act 1918 (clause 8).

The Australian Housing Corporation Act, as amended, is to be renamed the Defence Service Homes Corporation Act (clauses 5, 6).

The staff of the Corporation do not appear to be affected by the Bill except the General Manager whose office is abolished by the repeal of Part IV (clause 8).