WINE GRAPES LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1986

Date introduced: 19 March 1986
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Brown, M.P., Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism
for the Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

DIGEST OF BILL

Purpose

To revise the levy arrangements for funding the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation (the Corporation) by imposing a levy on wine makers for the financing of wine research in Australia.

Background

At present proceeds from a Wine Grape Levy imposed by the Wine Grape Levy Act 1979 are used to finance the activities of the Corporation. The Corporation then contributes funds to the Australian Wine Research Institute for wine research.

Main Provisions

Proposed new section 6 provides for the levy to comprise a marketing amount (to fund the Corporation) and a research amount (to fund wine research) and sets the maximum rates of these components at $5.00 and $2.00 per tonne of fresh grape, or the fresh grape equivalent, respectively. Operative rates of the levy are to be prescribed by Regulation (clause 4 which will substitute a new section 6 into the Principal Act).

New section 6A provides for a limitation to be placed on the total marketing amount of the levy payable by a person in respect of all goods on which a levy is payable. The operative ceiling amount may be prescribed by Regulation but may not exceed $20,000.
Proposed new section 7 clarifies who, at any given time, may be considered the proprietor of a winery for the purpose of paying the levy.

An exemption from the levy is available where the amount of fresh grapes or its equivalent used in the manufacture of wine at a winery during a year does not exceed 20 tonnes (clause 6 which will amend section 8(1) of the Principal Act).

Comment

This Bill is part of a package dealing with the wine and grape industries. The other Bills in the package are:

- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Bill 1986
- Wine Research Repeal Bill 1986
- Grape Research Levy Bill 1986
- Grape Research Levy Collection Bill 1986

For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.