

Bills Digest
No. 79 2000–01

Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge)
Amendment Bill 2000

ISSN 1328-8091

© Copyright Commonwealth of Australia 2001

Except to the extent of the uses permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including information storage and retrieval systems, without the prior written consent of the Department of the Parliamentary Library, other than by Senators and Members of the Australian Parliament in the course of their official duties.

This paper has been prepared for general distribution to Senators and Members of the Australian Parliament. While great care is taken to ensure that the paper is accurate and balanced, the paper is written using information publicly available at the time of production. The views expressed are those of the author and should not be attributed to the Information and Research Services (IRS). Advice on legislation or legal policy issues contained in this paper is provided for use in parliamentary debate and for related parliamentary purposes. This paper is not professional legal opinion. Readers are reminded that the paper is not an official parliamentary or Australian government document. IRS staff are available to discuss the paper's contents with Senators and Members and their staff but not with members of the public.

Inquiries

Members, Senators and Parliamentary staff can obtain further information from the Information and Research Services on (02) 6277 2646.

Information and Research Services publications are available on the ParlInfo database. On the Internet the Department of the Parliamentary Library can be found at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/>

Published by the Department of the Parliamentary Library, 2001

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH SERVICES

Bills Digest
No. 79 2000–01

Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Amendment Bill
2000

Angus Martyn
Law and Bills Digest Group
18 January 2001

Contents

Purpose.....	1
Background.....	1
Main Provisions	2
Endnotes.....	2

Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Amendment Bill 2000

Date Introduced: 7 December 2000

House: Senate

Portfolio: Environment and Heritage

Commencement: Immediately after the commencement of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000*¹

Purpose

To amend the *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000* so that both the obligations imposed upon large buyers of electricity under the Government's mandatory renewable energy target and the penalty for non-compliance with these obligations commence at the same time.

Background

Legislation underpinning the Government's mandatory renewable energy scheme,² the *Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000* and the *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000*, was introduced into Parliament in June 2000, but not finally passed until October 2000. The effect of this delay was that the scheme could not start on 1 January 2001 as originally envisaged by the Government.

As passed in October 2000, the *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000* introduced a penalty ('shortfall charge') for electricity buyers that failed to meet annual targets, starting 1 January 2001. The *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Amendment Bill 2000*³ corrects this situation by deleting the reference to 2001 in calculating the rate of shortfall charge in the *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000*.

Warning:

This Digest was prepared for debate. It reflects the legislation as introduced and does not canvass subsequent amendments.

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

Main Provisions

Item 1 of schedule 1 amends **section 6** of *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000*. The effect of this is that the potential liability to pay a shortfall charge will only occur when the *Renewable Energy (Electricity)(Charge) Act 2000* commences, rather than from 1 January 2001.

Endnotes

- 1 Which is 18 January 2001.
- 2 Readers are referred to Bills Digest no. 198 of 1999-2000 for background on the scheme. The Digest can be viewed at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/bd/1999-2000/2000BD198.htm>
- 3 The Bill was introduced into Parliament at midnight on 7 December (the last sitting day of the year) and passed by both houses during the early morning hours of 8 December.

Warning:

This Digest was prepared for debate. It reflects the legislation as introduced and does not canvass subsequent amendments.

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.