

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
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BED SHEETING BOUNTY BILL 1977

Date Introduced: 31 March 1977
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: The Honourable J. Howard,
Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To give assistance by way of a bounty for the Australian manufacture of polyester/cotton bed sheeting.

Main Provisions

The Bill provides for the payment of bounty on the production of printed bed sheeting containing cotton and not less than 20% by weight of man-made fibres, (clauses 5, 3). The rate of bounty is 20 cents per square metre (clause 7) to registered manufacturers who weave, print and use such fabric in their own establishments in Australia in the manufacture of bed linen (clauses 3, 5) except that the amount available for the bounty is limited to \$500,000 per year (cl. 8).

The bounty applies from 1 September 1976 up to any date fixed by the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs by notice published in the Gazette (cl. 4).

See Notes on Clauses provided by the Minister for other provisions.

Background

The bounty implements advice received from the Industries Assistance Commission in its Interim Report No. 97 of 27 August 1976 on "Fabrics for Use as Bed Sheetting, Pillow Casing or Bolster Casing".

To date assistance has been given to the industry using polyester/cotton cloth for the printing of bed sheets by allowing the cloth (Customs Tariff items 55.09.4 and 56.07.9) to be imported duty-free under by-law, (the "printing by-laws"). However, this method has had the effect of generating excessive import competition for the local weavers of bed sheeting (mainly Actil).

The IAC recommended a bounty, with continuation of the existing "printing by-laws", as a means of helping Actil without harming Bradmill which uses imported cloth.

The Government regards the bounty as according short term assistance only. A decision on long term assistance will not be made until the receipt of an IAC report on sheeting and a range of other textile and apparel items, which is expected towards the end of this year.

15 April 1977

Finance, Industries, Trade and Development Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

Bed Sheetting Bounty Bill 1977 (Bills Digest 15, 1977)

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Warning:

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