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APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1976–77

Date Introduced: 21 April 1977
House: House of Representatives
Introduced by: Rt. Hon. Phillip Lynch, M.P.,
Treasurer

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To appropriate moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for commitments for the ordinary annual services of the Government in 1976–77 additional to those originally provided in Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1976–77.

Background

Appropriation Bills (No. 3) and (No. 4) or “the additional estimates”, are usually introduced a few months before the end of each financial year to provide for essential and unavoidable expenditure commitments not included in Appropriation Bills (No. 1) and (No. 2) respectively at the beginning of the financial year. The Second Reading Speech for the latter Bills is the vehicle for the Treasurer’s Budget Speech.

Appropriation Bills (No. 1) and (No. 3) cover expenditures for the ordinary annual services of the Government, which the Senate does not have the power to amend.

Appropriation Bills (No. 2) and (No. 4) cover other expenditures mainly of a capital nature.

Appropriation Bills (No. 3) and (No. 4) cover expenditures required for such reasons as:

- cost increases since the original Budget preparation (except for certain increases in salary award rates provided for in the special section 5 of Appropriation Bill (No. 1));
- misjudgement in original estimates of outlays;
- new or expanded expenditure programs.

Some of the money formally appropriated under these Bills may have been already spent under the interim provision of the Advance to the Treasurer contained in Appropriation Bill (No. 1) or (No. 2).

In some cases, actual expenditure turns out to be less than appropriated for a particular item but such savings cannot be applied to an item where extra funds are needed

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 1976–77 (Bills Digest 20, 1977)

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unless in the same appropriation sub-division. The existence of such savings (a separate list of which is published by the Treasurer) means that the net excess of actual expenditure over that budgeted is smaller than the requirements in Appropriation Bills (No. 3) and (No. 4).

Provisions

Appropriation Bill (No. 3) permits the appropriation from C.R.F. of \$247 million for the purposes specified in the Schedule to the Bill, retrospective to 1 July 1976 (clauses 3, 4). The main items are summarised in the Second Reading Speech and include:

- \$44m for wage and salary increases, under the relevant Department and Division. An allowance of \$90m for such increases was made in the original Budget estimates but was not appropriated in individual salary votes.
- \$9m for May referenda.
- \$9m for Aboriginal programs
- \$38m for defence equipment cost increases
- \$32.5m for student allowances
- \$6.6m for the A.B.C.

Savings in other items in Appropriation Bill (No. 1) are expected to total about \$406 million.

26 April 1977

Finance, Industries, Trade and Development Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

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