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APPLE AND PEAR STABILISATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1977

Date Introduced: 1 November 1977
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Rt. Hon. Ian Sinclair, M.P.,
Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To extend the support provided under the Apple and Pear Stabilisation Scheme for one year to cover the 1978 export season at the same level as in 1977.

Background

The introduction of the Apple and Pear Stabilisation Scheme in 1971, coincided with the termination of compensation assistance provided after the U.K. devaluation in 1967. The scheme was to run for five export seasons, from 1971 (commencing on 1 October 1970) to 1975 inclusive. It was extended for one year in 1976, to cover the 1976 export season, and for a further year in 1977, to cover the 1977 export season. The Industries Assistance Commission recommended that the scheme should be extended to cover the 1976 and 1977 crops only (I.A.C., Fruitgrowing Part B: Apples and Pears, 16 January 1976). However, the Minister for Primary Industry announced on 18 October 1977, that the Government had decided to extend the scheme to 1978 despite the I.A.C. recommendation.

The scheme currently covers all apples and pears exported to markets 'at risk' (exported on free consignment, against a guaranteed advance or sold afloat), in Europe (including the U.K.) and also, in respect of pears, in North America. Support prices are determined for each major variety of apples and pears exported. When these prices are exceeded by corresponding varietal average prices (as determined from average varietal f.o.b. returns from all sales, at risk or otherwise, on all export markets), growers pay into a varietal support fund (by way of an export duty) a proportion of the excess. When these varietal average prices fall below the varietal support prices, a payment is made to the growers from the fund, to raise the average price to the support price. When insufficient amounts are available in the funds, the balance is provided by the Government up to a maximum of \$2.00 per box and a maximum quantity eligible for support of 2 million boxes in respect of apples, and a maximum level of support of \$0.80 per box and a maximum quantity eligible for support of 1.4 million boxes, in respect of pears.

To enable a flexible response to any industry requirement for support over and above stabilisation assistance, the Government is consulting with the States on continuation

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in 1978 of a supplementary assistance program, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and the States, which could involve an additional \$1 million to assist apple exports to Europe (including U.K.).

Related Legislation

The level and collection of the export duty (if any) are provided for, respectively, in the *Apple and Pear Stabilisation Export Duty Act 1971* and the *Apple and Pear Stabilisation Export Duty Collection Act 1971*. These two Acts, together with the Principal Act (the *Apple and Pear Stabilisation Act 1971*), provide for the Apple and Pear Stabilisation Scheme.

Provisions

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 of this Bill amend, respectively, sections 5, 10 and 11 of the Principal Act so that the Apple and Pear Stabilisation Scheme is extended for one year to cover the 1978 export season (commencing on 1 October 1977), at the same level of support given in the 1977 export season.

3 November 1977

Finance, Industries, Trade and Development Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

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