



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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SUBMISSION TO

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill 2016

Submission prepared on behalf of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.

Introduction

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (AHBIC) is the peak body for beekeeping in Australia. Its members are:-

Queensland Beekeepers Association Inc.
New South Wales Apiarists Association Inc.
Victorian Apiarists Association Inc.
Tasmanian Beekeepers Association Inc.
South Australian Apiarists Association Inc.
Western Australian Farmers Federation Inc. – Beekeepers Section
Honey Packers and Marketeers Association of Australia Inc.
Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association Inc.
National Council of Pollination Associations Inc.
Associated Groups

Alter rules relating to farm management deposits (FMD) to increase the allowable amounts held in FMD, as well as the uses to which those funds can be applied.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. is in favour of increasing the allowable limits to be held in Farm Management Deposits (FMD). This is seen as a prudent measure to allow beekeepers to be able to make sure they are financially viable for the future. It also allows them to equalize the variations in seasons and to be able to increase the amounts would be helpful for them.

I note in the summary it also says “enable certain primary producers experiencing severe drought conditions to withdraw an amount that has been held in an FMD for less than 12 months”. As primary producers, beekeepers are also subject to drought when there are no flowers on trees for the bees to work.

Another area that has come to light in recent times is the disastrous fires in Tasmania where some beekeepers will experience extreme financial hardship for the next year and, for some, for several years to come. This would be an example where prudent beekeepers, who have put money away in a FMD, could be allowed to access their money which has been held for less than 12 months.

Executive Director
Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc.
3 March, 2016