

Abattoir and Meat Inspection (Arrangements) Bill

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Part 1—Preliminary

Clause 1 sets out the purpose of the Bill which is to make provision for the reference of certain matters relating to the inspection of meat to the Commonwealth Parliament, and to amend certain Acts in connection with the inspection of meat and related matters.

Clause 2 provides that the Act will come into operation on Royal Assent, with the exception of section 4 which comes into operation on a day to be proclaimed, but not before the Minister is satisfied that an arrangement under clause 5 has been entered into.

Part 2—Reference of Matters to Commonwealth

Clause 3 contains definitions of the terms “meat” and “transfer day”.

Clause 4 contains provisions in regard to the reference to the Commonwealth of the matter of meat inspection.

Sub-clause (1) provides that, except in relation to the licensing of premises, the matter of meat inspection is referred to the Commonwealth commencing on the transfer day and ending on the date as may be fixed under sub-clause (2).

Sub-clause (2) enables the Governor in Council to fix by proclamation a date upon which the reference of meat inspection powers ceases to be in force.

Clause 5 contains provisions with regard to an arrangement between Victoria and the Commonwealth with respect to the inspection of meat within Victoria.

Sub-clause (1) enables Victoria and the Commonwealth to enter into such an arrangement.

Sub-clause (2) sets out the matters which must be included in the arrangement and enables the arrangement to be revoked or varied.

Sub-clause (3) provides that the provisions of any legislation relating to meat inspection that are inconsistent with an arrangement, are deemed to have no effect.

Clause 6 provides that a person who immediately before the transfer day was a meat inspector and who has not before that transfer day elected to be appointed or employed by the Commonwealth, shall be deemed to have resigned from the State public service on the transfer day.

Clause 7 contains provisions relating to superannuation arrangements which will apply to persons who transfer to the employment of the Commonwealth in accordance with an arrangement.

Part 3—Consequential Amendments

Clause 8 makes consequential amendments to the *Cattle Compensation Act 1967*, the *Swine Compensation Act 1967* and the *Stock Diseases Act 1968* to provide that a reference in those Acts to a meat inspector includes a reference to a Commonwealth officer who performs functions in relation to the inspection of meat in accordance with an arrangement under clause 5.

