

Rice Levy Regulations (Amendment) 1998 No. 142

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

STATUTORY RULES 1998 NO. 142

Issued by the Authority of the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy

Rice Levy Act 1991

Rice Levy Regulations (Amendment)

The *Rice Levy Act 1991* (the Act) provides for the imposition of a levy on leviable rice varieties. The amount raised by the levy, along with matching Commonwealth Rinds, is used to finance research of benefit to the rice industry. The rice research scheme and associated administrative arrangements are authorised by the *Primary Industries and Energy Research and Development Act 1989*.

Section 3 of the Act provides for leviable rice varieties to be prescribed by regulations. This section also defines a "rice industry body" to include the Rice Marketing Board for the State of New South Wales.

A recommendation has been received from the Rice Marketing Board for the State of New South Wales seeking changes to the Schedule of leviable rice varieties. The Rice Marketing Board recommended that 12 varieties of rice be levied, most of which, with the exception of the 'YK4' variety of rice, are already prescribed in the Rice Levy Regulations (the Principal regulations). The Rice Marketing Board also advised that 4 varieties of leviable rice have been discontinued, one of which, the 'YRL 101' variety of rice, is prescribed in the Principal regulations. The other 3 of the discontinued varieties of rice were prescribed in the original Act. The Office of Legislative Drafting has advised that these 3 varieties of rice can only be removed from the Schedule by amendments to the Act.

The purpose of the Regulations is therefore to amend the Principal Regulations to provide for the 'YK4' variety of rice to be levied, and for the 'YRL 101' variety of rice to be omitted from the Schedule of leviable rice.

Details of the Regulations are as follows.

Regulation 1 provides that the Rice Levy Regulations will commence on gazettal.

Regulation 2 provides that the Rice Levy Regulations are amended by the Rice Levy Regulations (Amendment).

Regulation 3 provides for the insertion of the 'YK4' variety of rice and the omission of the 'YRL 101' variety of rice.

The regulations commenced on gazettal.