

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

AMENDMENT OF EGG INDUSTRY ORDINANCE 1975

NO. 43 OF 1979

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Egg Industry Ordinance 1975 regulates the number of hens permitted to be kept in the ACT for the purposes of commercial egg production. Each producer with more than 200 hens over the age of six months must apply for a licence which specifies the number of hens which he is permitted to keep.

At present the penalty for keeping hens without a licence or in excess of the number specified in a licence is \$500. This has, however proved to be inadequate for effective enforcement. The Egg Industry (Amendment) Ordinance 1979 increases the penalty to \$1500. The penalty for keeping hens for the production of eggs for commercial purposes on a parcel of land other than that specified in a licence is also increased from \$500 to \$1000.

In order to facilitate enforcement, the Egg Industry (Amendment) Ordinance 1979 also increases the penalties payable by producers for obstructing the entry of inspectors from \$200 to \$500.

Section 7 of the Ordinance gives an inspector the power, inter alia, to "enter and inspect any land or premises" under certain circumstances. The Egg Industry (Amendment) Ordinance 1979 extends the powers of inspectors to ensure that they may count hens on commercial farms in the ACT.

The Egg Industry (Amendment) Ordinance 1979 makes several other changes of a formal nature which remove inconsistencies in the existing Ordinance and insert new definitions.

An appeal against a decision of the Egg Industry Officer now lies to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal instead of to the ACT Supreme Court.

The provision (section 21) that a licence is not to be granted to a body corporate which is not a company is repealed.

The effect of the new section 25 is to change the time limits within which shareholders of licensee companies must give information to the Egg Industry Officer. The maximum penalty for failure to comply therewith is increased from \$200 to \$500.