

## ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

### No. 9 of 1929.

### An Act relating to the Establishment of a Bureau of Economic Research.

[Assented to 22nd March, 1929.]

**B**E it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Economic Research Act* 1929. **Short title.**
2. This Act shall commence on a date to be fixed by Proclamation. **Commencement.**
3. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears— **Definitions.**
  - “ the Bureau ” means the Bureau of Economic Research ;
  - “ the Director ” means the Director of Economic Research.
4. There shall be a Bureau of Economic Research consisting of the Director and such officers as are appointed for the purposes of this Act. **The Bureau of Economic Research.**
- 5.—(1.) The Governor-General may appoint a Director of the Bureau, and on the happening of any vacancy in the office of Director of the Bureau the Governor-General may appoint a person to the vacant office. **Appointment of Director.**
  - (2.) The term for which any such appointment shall be made shall be **not more than** seven years, and any person so appointed shall, at the expiration of the term of office, be eligible for re-appointment.
  - (3.) In case of the illness, suspension or absence of the Director, the Governor-General may appoint a person to act as Deputy-Director during the illness, suspension or absence, and the Deputy shall, while so acting, have all the powers and perform all the duties of the Director.

(4.) If an officer of the Public Service of the Commonwealth is appointed Director, the *Officers' Rights Declaration Act* 1928 shall apply as if this Act and Section had been specified in the Schedule to that Act.

(5.) If an officer of the Public Service of a State is appointed Director, he shall have the same rights as if he had been an officer of a Department transferred to the Commonwealth and had been retained in the service of the Commonwealth.

**Remuneration  
and allowances.**

6.—(1.) The Director shall be paid such remuneration as the Governor-General from time to time determines.

(2.) Travelling expenses as prescribed shall be paid to the Director on account of his expenses in travelling in the discharge of his office.

**Suspension of  
Director.**

7.—(1.) The Minister may at any time suspend the Director or his deputy from office for incapacity, incompetence or misbehaviour.

(2.) The Minister shall, within seven days after the suspension, if the Parliament is then sitting, or if the Parliament is not then sitting, within seven days after the next meeting of the Parliament, cause to be laid before both Houses of the Parliament a full statement of the grounds of suspension.

(3.) If within twenty-one days after the statement has been laid before the Parliament, an address is presented to the Governor-General by the Senate and the House of Representatives praying for the restitution to office of the Director or the Deputy, as the case may be, he shall be restored accordingly; but if no such address is so presented, the Governor-General may confirm the suspension, and declare the office of the Director, or the Deputy, as the case may be, to be vacant, and the office shall thereupon be and become vacant.

**Vacation of  
office.**

8. The Director shall be deemed to have vacated his office if he—

- (a) becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or applies to take the benefit of any Act for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, or compounds with his creditors, or makes an assignment of his salary or remuneration for their benefit;
- (b) absents himself from duty for a period of fourteen consecutive days, or for twenty-eight days in any twelve months, without leave granted by the Governor-General;
- (c) becomes permanently incapable of performing his duties; or
- (d) resigns his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Governor-General.

**Staff.**

9.—(1.) The appointment of officers for the purposes of this Act shall be subject to the *Commonwealth Public Service Act* 1922–1928:

Provided that if, in the opinion of the Governor-General, it is necessary that the person to be appointed to any office under this Act should possess professional or technical qualifications, the

Governor-General may declare that the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Service Act* 1922-1928 shall not apply to that office, and thereupon the Governor-General may appoint a person to the office upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed.

(2.) The Director shall have all the powers and functions of a Permanent Head under the *Commonwealth Public Service Act* 1922-1928 in relation to officers employed for the purposes of this Act.

10. The Director shall, **except to the extent (if any) to which the Minister otherwise allows**, devote the whole of his time to the performance of his duties under this Act, and shall not accept or hold any paid employment outside the duties of his office as Director, or be a director of a company.

Director to devote whole time to duties.

11. The powers and functions of the Bureau shall be—

Powers and functions of Bureau.

(a) to carry out economic research in respect of—

- (i) Primary industries ;
- (ii) Secondary industries ;
- (iii) Marketing ;
- (iv) Transport ;
- (v) Customs and Excise Tariffs ;
- (vi) Bounties ;
- (vii) **Industrial Matters ;**
- (viii) Taxation ;
- (ix) **Finance and Currency ;** and
- (x) Such other matters as are prescribed ;

(b) to investigate and report to the Minister on—

- (i) the granting of assistance for the promotion of economic research ;
- (ii) co-operation in economic research with academic and other bodies in Australia and elsewhere ; **and**
- (iii) the establishing and awarding of economic research studentships and fellowships ; **and**

(c) to publish from time to time results of economic investigations carried out by the Bureau.

12. As soon as may be after the thirtieth day of June in each year the Director shall submit to the Minister for presentation to the Parliament a report on the work of the Bureau during the financial year just closed.

Annual report.

13. The Governor General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters which by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for giving effect to this Act.

Regulations.