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**BOUNTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT 1997 - ACT No. 105 of 1997**

The *Bounty Legislation Amendment Act 1997* received the Royal Assent on **30 June 1997** as Act No. 105 of 1997.

Act No. 105 of 1997 represents the Parliament's final position on the Government changes to Bounty schemes announced in the 1996-97 Budget on 20 August 1996. The Act, which commenced on 30 June 1997, amends the *Bounty (Computers) Act 1984* and the *Bounty (Ships) Act 1989*.

The amendments implement the following changes to those Acts:

The *Bounty (Computers) Act 1984* - the "bounty period" ended on 30 June 1997.

The *Bounty (Ships) Act 1989* - the period to which the Act applies has been extended to 30 June 1999.

Bounty will be paid on the construction or modification of vessels that are produced according to a firm commitment entered into before 1 January 1998. In order to establish the existence of a firm commitment the vessel must have been identified in a business plan covering the period to 30 June 1999. The plan must be lodged with the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism, before 15 January 1998. The business plan must set out details which indicate that the construction or modification of the vessel was committed to (either in a contract or otherwise) before 1 January 1998.

The Bounty (Ships) Act amendments also allow claims to be made for the construction or modification of vessels if the construction or modification is at least 50% complete on 30 June 1999.

The accelerated expiry of the *Bounty (Books) Act 1986* and *Bounty (Machine Tools and Robots) Act 1985*, announced in the August 1996 Budget was not achieved and both bounties will expire in line with current legislation as follows:

The *Bounty (Books) Act 1986* - the "bounty period" ends on 31 December 1997.

The *Bounty (Machine, Tools and Robots ) Act 1985* - the "bounty period" ended on 30 June 1997.

It should be noted that although the "bounty period" has now expired for the Machine Tools and Robots and Computers Bounties, the Bounty Acts have not been repealed. Rights and obligations in respect of eligible production during the bounty periods under the Acts continue. This is particularly relevant in respect of lodgement of Returns of Factory Costs and Statements of Difference for previous claims.

The ACS is keen to assist claimants in the finalisation of their claims. Please contact Bounty officers in your region to assist in achieving this end:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **QUEENSLAND** | **VICTORIA** | **WESTERN AUSTRALIA** |
| Gary Scanes | Des O'Connor | Mark Debeljakovic |
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| **SOUTH AUSTRALIA** | **TASMANIA** |  |

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| Bill Jennings | Graham Evans |  |
| Ph (08) 8447 9321 | Ph (03) 6230 1294 |  |
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| **NEW SOUTH WALES** |  |  |
| ***Claims*** | ***Return of Factory Costs*** |  |
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|  |  |  |

For further information please contact **Joe Eastmure (06 275 6653)** or **Mike Kearns (06 275 5805).**

MARION GRANT

National Manager Industry

FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CANBERRA ACT 2601

22 July 1997