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FRUIT MARKETING ORGANISATION ACTS,  
QUEENSLAND.

In December of 1943 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire generally into the fruit and vegetable industry of Queensland. The Commission subsequently furnished its report setting out its findings and submitting various recommendations.

The Commission found, inter alia, that the only authorities taking any organised interest in the production and marketing of fruit and vegetables in Queensland are the Department of Agriculture and the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing. The Department's activities were limited to production and the C.O.D.'s wholly confined to marketing with no direct interest in production. The Commission took the view that there should be a central authority whose duty it would be to gather, so far as it is possible, the facts relating to all matters affecting both the production and marketing sides of the industry with a view to advising the Government in laying down a policy limiting production and marketing and charged, among other matters, with the carrying out of Government policy and enforcement of the relevant laws.

No recommendation was made as to what form this authority should take, but it is of interest to note that the functions and scope of the Committee of Direction have been added to and widened as a result of amendments to the Fruit Marketing Acts recently agreed to by the Queensland Parliament. The Amending Act incorporates a number of the recommendations of the Royal Commission and its main features, which have been summarised by the Queensland Director of Marketing, are as follows:

1. Widening the definition of "marketing" so as to specifically empower the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing to engage in the refrigeration, cold storage, ripening, processing, manufacture and treatment of fruit and vegetables and the selling of the processed, manufactured or treated article or any product derived therefrom.
2. Creation of a separate Sectional Group Committee for vegetables other than the heavy produce type such as potatoes, onions, etc.
3. Exemption of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing from the Farm Produce Agents Acts so as to enable it to act as both principal and agent.
4. Granting the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing express power to deal with fruit and vegetables sold in Queensland but produced outside the State.



5. Granting the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing express power to carry on business outside the State.
  6. Granting the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing express power to carry on the merchandising of growers' requisites.
  7. Empowering the Minister for Public Lands, with the approval of the Governor in Council, to resume property on behalf of the Committee of Direction.
  8. Empowering the Governor in Council to require the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing to carry on as principal the business of supplying fruit and vegetables by wholesale or retail in any specific local authority area.
  9. Declaring the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing to be a permanent body corporate.
  10. Appointment of a consumers' representative on the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing.
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