

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 18th September, 1973

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (9): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Fitzroy Crossing

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many pupils attend school in Fitzroy Crossing?
- (2) How many pupils at Fitzroy Crossing are Aborigines?
- (3) How many children at Fitzroy Crossing are receiving pre-school training or supervision?
- (4) How many children will be available or eligible for pre-school training by February, 1974?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) 235 pupils (as at 1st August 1973).
- (2) 229.
- (3) None.
- (4) Because of the fluctuating population at Fitzroy Crossing, it is difficult to predict how many pre-school children would be available for February, 1974.

2. HOUSING

Purchase Homes Deposit

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What is the current minimum deposit including fees required by applicants for purchase homes from the State Housing Commission?
- (2) When was this minimum deposit determined?
- (3) What was the previous minimum deposit?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Current policy for purchase homes under Contract of Sale conditions is \$200 minimum deposit plus fees approximately \$150, with a discretion in particular cases to accept as low as \$100 deposit plus fees. Actual practice is to negotiate with purchaser for higher deposit consistent with his means.
- (2) 9th December, 1959.
- (3) \$50 minimum deposit, determined on 7th June, 1951.

3.

TOWN PLANNING

Undivided Shares in Land

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What is the present position in regard to the purchase of undivided shares or interests in Western Australian land by overseas or interstate residents who have such land represented to them as suitable for residential or retirement purposes?
- (2) Does the sale of undivided shares in such land offend any Town Planning laws or regulations?
- (3) Is any action contemplated by the Government, and if so, what?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) A few persons or organisations are known to be advertising in Western Australia, and possibly outside the State, the sale of undivided shares in land. These are being offered as a "hedge" against inflation.
- (2) The advertisements in the Press to date inviting participation in such a scheme have been so worded that conflict is not apparent with the provisions of the Town Planning legislation.
- (3) The Department is currently investigating what action, if any, should be taken to amend the legislation and so obviate any possible misunderstanding in cases of this kind in the future. This action follows investigations and reports by the Law Reform Commission.

4.

ABORIGINES

Housing: Fitzroy Crossing

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) In view of the answer given to question No. 6 of the 12th September, 1973, which appears to be extremely inaccurate, will the Minister advise the source of his information?
- (2) Will the Minister recheck the situation because estimates of the average Aboriginal population of the Fitzroy Crossing district is approximately 400 people, and not the 66 quoted by the Minister and other estimates show the Aboriginal population swells to approximately 1500 and not the 400 quoted by the Minister?
- (3) If only 20 village type houses are planned for the Aborigines in the district, where will the remainder live?

- (4) Will there be provision for the nomadic visitors to the area who exceed 1000 each year?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is "No" where are personal body wastes deposited by visiting Aborigines to Fitzroy Crossing?
- (6) Can hook worm be transmitted through larvae from faeces being deposited on the ground and hosted through the soles of feet?
- (7) Is hook worm prevalent in the Fitzroy Crossing district?
- (8) Will the department consider the appointment of a permanent male officer as well as a female officer to Fitzroy Crossing?
- (9) If the answer to (8) is "No" what is the ratio of departmental officers in the metropolitan area to the Aboriginal population in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON replied:

- (1) As a result of the very limited time available to answer this question, figures taken in August, 1972 by the Community Welfare District Officer were the source of information.

These figures refer specifically to the reserves residents and, more specifically, to the long-term permanent reserves residents. The figures had been obtained with a view to a Departmental representation to the State Housing Commission for the housing of those permanent family units.

I now realise that the figures were not what the honourable member was referring to.

- (2) An immediate check has been made. These following figures are based on the total Fitzroy District and do not refer exclusively to reserve population.

On 30th June, 1972, there were 237 Aboriginal residents on the reserves, of whom 66 were considered permanent and suitable for permanent accommodation.

On 15th June, 1973, there were 171 inhabitants on the Fitzroy reserves.

The reduction was due to an increase in the numbers returning to employment on the stations.

Since June, 1973, eight more families have returned to the reserves and there are now approximately 200 Aborigines on the Fitzroy reserves.

On 30th June, 1972, there were 271 Aboriginal residents at the mission and this dropped to 130 by 15th June, 1973.

The total population of Aborigines throughout the Fitzroy District as at 30th June, 1972, was 1,123. It is acknowledged the majority of these move into Fitzroy during the wet.

The original quote of 400 resulted from the inability to contact the Fitzroy District Officer in the short time available to answer the question raised. It was assumed the question referred to numbers actually camped on departmental reserves.

- (3) State Housing Commission's plan to build 20 houses this year means the remainder who live in Fitzroy, or move to Fitzroy seasonally, will continue to camp either on the reserves or in the bush.
- (4) The only provision for the nomadic visitors is the State Housing Commission's plan to erect four wiltjas. These wiltjas provide very basic shelter and independent showers and toilets for males and females. Each one can shelter comfortably up to 12 persons.

In the next financial year, State Housing intends to continue with its village housing programme for Fitzroy. The Supervisor for the Community Welfare Department's Kimberley Division has requested funds in the State Budget for the provision of a long house also for transients.

The problem of transient housing for nomads occurs elsewhere in the State and the Community Welfare Department's Supervisor for the Goldfields has undertaken a special project to collate all available knowledge and ideas for the housing of nomadic Aborigines. He has enlisted active interest of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Aboriginal Panel. The department has provided clerical support to the supervisor for the purpose of this project. The project has reached a stage of determining the numbers and movements of nomadic Aborigines through Western Australia.

- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) The department has a permanent male officer in Fitzroy and will be appointing a female officer to Fitzroy as soon as it has obtained a house for this female officer. A house has been requested for several years from the Government Employees Housing Authority.
- (9) Answered by (8).

5. **TRANSPORT***Perishable Goods to North-West*

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) In respect of licences to transport freezer/chiller goods in Western Australia, would the Minister advise when the current licensees were first issued with their licences for the transport of goods between Perth and—
 - (a) Carnarvon and centres north of Carnarvon;
 - (b) Windarra; and
 - (c) Agnew?
- (2) In each of the above cases, what were the conditions under which the licences were issued?
- (3) What was the last date on which each of the above licences was issued or renewed?
- (4) Who are the present licence holders in each case?
- (5) (a) Have any of the above licences changed hands since originally being allocated; and
 - (b) if so, from whom was the licence transferred?
- (6) (a) Have any applications been received by the Transport Commission for a licence to transport freezer/chiller goods to any of the above centres in addition to the present licence holders during the past 12 months; and
 - (b) if so, who were the applicants?
- (7) In each case, what is the current cost to the holder for the licence?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) (a) Carnarvon and centres north of Carnarvon—
 Gascoyne Trading Pty. Ltd.—
 20th July, 1956.
 Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd.—1st March, 1968, for Wittenoom Service and 3rd October, 1972, for other services.
- (b) Perth-Windarra—
 A. R. Hoar—28th June, 1973.
- (c) Perth-Agnew—
 Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd.—10th March, 1972.

(2) The conditions are—

(a) **ROUTE OR AREA ON OR IN WHICH VEHICLES ARE AUTHORISED TO OPERATE**

- (1) Perth to Exmouth via Geraldton and Carnarvon.
- (2) Perth to Port Hedland, Broome and Derby via Geraldton and Carnarvon.
- (3) Perth to Port Hedland, Broome and Derby via Meekatharra and Marble Bar.
- (4) Perth to Mt. Tom Price via Geraldton and Carnarvon.
- (5) Perth to Mt. Tom Price and Mt. Newman via Meekatharra.
- (6) Within the State of Western Australia.

CONDITIONS

Class of Goods to be carried:—This licence shall authorise the licensee to operate the vehicle(s) described above **SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF** : carrying—

CONDITION 1*On Route (1)—**Northbound :*

Leaving Perth on Mondays and Thursdays.
 In the following order of priority :—

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for use or consumption at Exmouth.
- (b) Other goods for use or consumption at Exmouth.

Southbound :

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs.
- (b) Royal Mail and films.
- (c) Empty returns of beer kegs, wine kegs and gas bottles.

*On Routes (2) to (5) inclusive—**Northbound :*

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration and medical supplies for use or consumption at any place situated north of the twenty-sixth parallel of south latitude.
- (b) Royal Mail and films.

Southbound :

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs and tin ore produced north of the twenty-sixth parallel of south latitude.
- (b) Royal Mail and films.
- (c) Empty returns of beer kegs, wine kegs and gas bottles.

CONDITION 2

For the purpose of this licence the term "perishable foodstuffs" shall not include alcoholic beverages, aerated waters or cordials.

On Route (6)—Road Vehicles.

The term "road vehicles" shall mean and include motor cars, utilities, motor wagons, prime movers, caravans and trailers, "other than trailers having a tare weight of less than fifteen hundredweights (15 cwt.)."

LICENCE NO. 13450

(b) **ROUTE OR AREA ON OR IN WHICH VEHICLES ARE AUTHORISED TO OPERATE**

- (1) From any place within a radius of twenty (20) miles from the General Post Office, Perth via the Great Eastern Highway to Laverton, Windarra, Murphy Hills and Mt. Venn.
- (2) Perth via the Great Eastern Highway to Leonora and Laverton.
- (3) Perth to Muchea, Moora and Mingenew : returning to Perth via Bantline, Wubin, Dalwallinu, Pithara, Ballidu, Wongan Hills and Calingiri.
- (4) From any place within a radius of twenty (20) miles from the General Post Office, Perth to Southern Cross via the Great Eastern Highway and return Perth via Merredin, Nukoral, Nungarin, Kununoppin, Mukinbudin, Bencubbin, Koorda, Wyalkatchem, Dowerin, Goomalling and Toodyay.

CONDITIONS

1. Class of Goods to be carried:—This licence shall authorise the licensee to operate the vehicle(s) described above **SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF** : carrying—

On Route (1)—

- (a) Deep frozen foodstuffs which require to be transported under refrigeration at temperatures not higher than minus 12 degrees Celsius.
- (b) Fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy produce, bacon, cooked meats and fish, which are being transported under refrigeration.

On Route (2)—

Fresh milk and empty containers therefor.

On Routes (3) and (4)—

On the outward journey from Perth—(a) Fresh fruit juices, frozen meat packs, and crumpets : and (b) pies, pasties, cakes and pastries manufactured by Kurling & Sexton Pty. Ltd., for resale to country stores.

*On the return journey to Perth—*Empty containers and crates from such commodities.

CONDITIONS :

- (a) On Route (1) the licence shall not authorise the transport of alcoholic beverages, aerated waters, cordials, onions, potatoes or canned goods.

- (b) On Routes (3) and (4) this licence shall authorise the transport of fresh fruit juices which require to be kept under refrigeration at temperatures not higher than minus two degrees Celsius.
- (c) Goods shall not be transferred, whether directly or indirectly from the licensed vehicle to another vehicle or from another vehicle to the licensed vehicle in the course of or for the purpose of, the carriage of such goods to or from places outside the area authorised herein for the carriage of such goods.

LICENCE NO. 13456

(e) ROUTE OR AREA ON OR IN WHICH VEHICLES ARE AUTHORISED TO OPERATE

Route 1. Perth to Wittenoom via Paynes Find and Meekatharra or via North West Coastal Highway.

Route 2. Perth to Newman via Paynes Find and Meekatharra.

Route 3. Perth to Paraburdoo via Paynes Find and Meekatharra or via North West Coastal Highway.

Route 4. Perth to Tom Price via Paynes Find and Meekatharra or via North West Coastal Highway.

Route 5. Perth to Carnarvon, Exmouth, Onslow, Pannawonica, Mt. End, Deepdale via Yarraloola, Wickham, Dampier, Karratha, Roebourne, Cape Lambert, and Port Hedland, or via Paynes Find and Meekatharra, or via North West Coastal Highway.

Route 6. Perth to Port Hedland, Marble Bar, Nullagine, Mt. Goldsworthy and Shay Gap: via the North West Coastal Highway and the Great Northern Highway.

Route 7. Perth to Broome, Derby, Kununurra and Wyndham via the North West Coastal Highway and the Great Northern Highway.

Route 8. Perth to Agnew, via Kalgoorlie and Leonora.

Route 9. From Geraldton to any point within the Shires of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Upper Gascoyne, Ashburton, Roebourne, Tableland or Port Hedland.

CONDITIONS

1. Class of Goods to be carried :—This licence shall authorise the licensee to operate the vehicle(s) described above **SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF** : carrying—

On Route (1)—

(1) On the northbound journey in the following order of priority :

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Wittenoom.
- (b) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.
- (c) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Paynes Find.
- (d) Other goods for use or consumption at Wittenoom.
- (e) Other goods for use or consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.

(2) On the southward journey any goods which have been in use, or produced at Wittenoom.

On Route (2)—

(1) On the northbound journey in the following order of priority :

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Mt. Newman.
- (b) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.
- (c) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Paynes Find.
- (d) Other goods for use or consumption at Mt. Newman.
- (e) Other goods for use or consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.

(2) On the southbound journey any goods which have been in use, or produced at Newman.

On Route (3)

(1) On the northbound journey in the following order of priority :

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Paraburdoo.

- (b) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.
- (c) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Paynes Find.
- (d) Other goods for use or consumption at Paraburdoo.
- (e) Other goods for use or consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.

(2) On the southbound journey any goods which have been in use, or produced at Paraburdoo.

On Route (4)—

(1) On the northbound journey in the following order of priority :

- (a) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Tom Price.
- (b) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route, north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.
- (c) Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for consumption at Paynes Find.
- (d) Other goods for use or consumption at Tom Price.
- (e) Other goods for use or consumption at other places on or near the prescribed route north of the 26th parallel of south latitude.

(2) On the southbound journey any goods which have been in use, or produced at Tom Price.

On Routes (5) and (6)—

(1) On the northbound journey from Perth :

Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for use or consumption at any of the places specified on the prescribed route.

(2) On the southbound journey to Perth :

- (i) Fish, prawn and other refrigerated cargo produced at Cape Lambert, Roebourne, Onslow, Exmouth or Carnarvon.
- (ii) Tin ore produced north of the 26th parallel of south latitude (as from 14/3/73).

On Route (7)

(1) On the northbound journey from Perth : Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for use or consumption at any of the places specified on the prescribed route.

(2) On the southbound journey to Perth :

- (i) Fish, prawn and other refrigerated cargo produced at Cape Lambert, Roebourne, Onslow and Carnarvon.
- (ii) Frozen meats and other refrigerated cargo produced at Broome, Derby, Kununurra and Wyndham.

On Route (8)— On the northbound journey from Perth—Perishable foodstuffs under refrigeration for use or consumption at Agnew only.

On Route (9)—

- (a) On northbound journeys, goods which have been forwarded by rail to Geraldton, or which have been produced at Geraldton, and which are for use or consumption within the Shires named :
- (b) On southbound journeys, goods which have been produced in such Shires, or which are consigned from such Shires in the ordinary course of business by persons resident therein, or having a fixed place of business therein, and which goods are to be consigned by rail from Geraldton, or are for use or consumption at Geraldton.

Provided that no goods shall be set down on any northbound journey, or taken up on any southbound journeys, at any place south of Galena.

CONDITIONS : On Routes 1 to 8 (Inclusive)

2 This licence shall authorise the transport of goods not more than one per week in each direction on each of the routes defined in this licence with the exception that, on route (2) goods may be transported to Mt. Newman twice per week in accordance with the timetable as set out in condition 5.

3. Within seven (7) days after the end of each calendar month the licensee shall supply to the Commissioner of Transport for statistical purposes, a statement in the form required by the Commission, showing particulars of each journey completed during such month and the quantities and types of goods carried.

4. For the purposes of this licence, the term "Perishable Foodstuffs" shall not include alcoholic beverages, aerated waters or cordials.

5. The following timetable shall be adhered to unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner of Transport:

On Route 1—Depart Perth Tuesday 5.00 p.m.—Arrive Wittenoom Thursday 10.00 a.m.

On Route 2—Depart Perth Tuesday 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.—Arrive Mt. Newman Wednesday 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Depart Perth Saturday 10.00 a.m.—Arrive Mt. Newman Sunday 10.00 a.m.

On Route 3—Depart Perth Tuesday 5.00 p.m.—Arrive Paraburadoo Thursday 4.00 p.m.

On Route 4—Depart Perth Tuesday 5.00 p.m.—Arrive Tom Price Thursday 2.00 p.m.

Condition 6. On Route (9)

This licence shall not authorise the transport on the public vehicle of any goods unless a description and the weight of such goods, the places of their origin and destination and the names of their consignors and consignees, are contained in a manifest in possession of the driver. The driver shall produce any such manifest for inspection on demand by a member of the Police Force, or an authorised officer of the Commissioner of Transport.

LICENCE No. 13401

- (3) Gascoyne Trading Pty. Ltd.—21st December, 1972.

Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd. (Perth to North-West)—27th November, 1972.

O. J. E. Thompson and H. P. W. Joosten—20th December, 1972, and transferred to A. R. Hoar on 28th June, 1973.

Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd. (Perth to Agnew)—27th November, 1972.

- (4) Gascoyne Trading Pty. Ltd.

Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd.

A. R. Hoar.

- (5) (a) and (b) The licence originally held by Wittenoom Road Services from 27th November, 1971, to operate between Perth and Wittenoom was transferred to Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd. on 1st March, 1968.

A licence granted to Chapman Transport Pty. Ltd. on 23rd August, 1962, to operate from Perth to Marble Bar and Nullagine was transferred to Gascoyne Trading Pty. Ltd. on 27th November, 1962.

A licence granted to Interstate and W.A. United Transport Pty. Ltd. on 17th July, 1970, to operate from Perth to Windarra, was transferred to G. G. Hood on 6th October, 1971; thence to O. J. E. Thompson and H. P. W. Joosten on 14th March, 1972, and finally to A. R. Hoar on 28th June, 1973.

- (6) (a) Yes.

(b) H. G. Johnson and Co. Pty. Ltd.

Richardson Bros. of Port Hedland.

Indian Pacific Service, Incorporated.

Nor-West Refrigeration Service.

- (7) Gascoyne Trading Pty. Ltd.—\$5,593.02 for 23 vehicles.

Bell Bros. Pty. Ltd.—\$4,041.90 for 13 vehicles.

A. R. Hoar—\$130.50 for 1 vehicle.

6.

MEAT

Export Tax

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

Referring to question 5 on the 12th September, 1973, concerning the meat export tax—

- (1) Will the Minister reconsider his answer to part (2) and provide a reply more appropriate to the question?

- (2) As the Federal Government has announced that proceeds of the tax will be utilised to recoup inspection service costs, and to provide funds for disease control, does the Minister agree that the decision was not essentially the concern of the Federal Government, but was also of great concern to the Western Australian industry and to the operation of disease control services by State Veterinary and Animal Health Authorities?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) The honourable member would be aware that the proposed levy of 1 cent per pound on all meat exported is designed to meet the cost of export meat inspection services.
- (2) The proposed 0.6 cent per pound levy applies to beef exports only and is designed to fund the national tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication programme. The provision of monies by the Federal Government now exceeds the State's financial commitments to the programme. The Federal Government will also contribute towards the compensation of cattle found to be affected with tuberculosis. This eradication programme is of vital concern to the Western Australian meat industry and the State animal health authorities which are responsible for that part of the national programme applicable to the State.

7. RAVENSTHORPE HIGH SCHOOL

Additions and Grounds

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) When were the major additions to the Ravensthorpe Junior High School completed?
- (2) (a) Was a landscape plan completed; and
(b) if not, why not?
- (3) (a) Has water been reticulated to the garden area, or have garden taps been installed;
(b) if not, why not?
- (4) Is it considered advantageous to have gardens, lawns and play areas established at schools?
- (5) (a) Who carries out this work; and
(b) at how many schools are full or part time gardeners employed?
- (6) Is the help given to the Ravensthorpe Parents and Citizens' Association typical of that given to those in—
(a) city schools; and
(b) other country schools?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) April 1971.
- (2) (a) No.
(b) Normal landscaping cannot be carried out because of the limited availability of water.
- (3) (a) Garden taps have been installed and the area of developed ground is already in excess of the amount permitted from a mains water supply.
(b) Answered by (a).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) (a) The Department carries out grounds development within 100 feet of school buildings. The development of playing fields at primary schools is the responsibility of the Parents and Citizens' Association with subsidy assistance.
(b) All schools with sufficient development to justify such an appointment have been provided with the services of a gardener.
- (6) (a) and (b) It is the Department's policy to assist all Government schools to develop playing areas to the limit of circumstances in the particular area.

8. WATER SUPPLIES

Extensions from Mains

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, for the Hon. N. E. BAXTER, to the Leader of the House:

With reference to my question and the reply of Thursday, the 13th September, 1973, regarding water supply extensions, in which the answer was "Yes, with certain conditions"—

- (a) does the Country Water Supply Department have similar policy;
- (b) if not, why not?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (a) No, as supply conditions in rural farmlands are not comparable with those in the metropolitan area.
- (b) Under rural conditions the services of the type permitted by the Metropolitan Water Board could be required to be very long and laid in areas where inspection is very difficult. In the event of leaks developing serious wastage of water can result. Furthermore unauthorised connections cannot readily be policed and these cause a consequential loss of revenue.

9. TRANSPORT

*Relocation of Bus Stop:
Wanneroo Road*

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House:

Further to the reply to question 4 on Thursday, the 13th September, 1973, regarding the relocation of the bus stop at the corner of Lawley Street and Wanneroo Road, will the Minister advise—

- (a) the nature of the road works referred to in the Minister's answer; and
- (b) when is it expected these works will be completed?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (a) an embayment to Tuart and Wanneroo Road in conjunction with channellisation which necessitates movement of S.E.C. poles and underground P.M.G. services.
- (b) P.M.G. estimate is mid-December, 1973.

The S.E.C. is awaiting pegging by the local authority, the City of Stirling and estimate three to four months.

AGE OF MAJORITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson (Minister for Police), and passed.

WOOD CHIPPING INDUSTRY AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 13th September.

THE HON. T. O. PERRY (Lower Central) [4.52 p.m.]: The Bill now before us has been framed to ratify a variation agreement between the State and the W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. Pty. Ltd. The launching of any project or industry which converts waste material into a saleable commodity will receive enthusiastic support. In the case of this contract which is for the supply of \$200,000,000 worth of wood chips over a period of 15 years, it will bring a boost to the economy of the Manjimup district. Apart from the boost of the production of wood chips, of course, the project will also involve the building of the wood chipping plant, houses for the increased work force required, and all the benefits this will bring to practically every business house in Manjimup.

In the past, timber cutting was very wasteful. Up until the late 1920s, the bulk of the sleepers produced in Western Australia were hewn sleepers. The method used was to split the logs into billets which were then cut to the correct size with a broad axe, which naturally was very wasteful. This method was replaced in the late 1920s and the 1930s by spot mills which sawed the timber into sleepers. Most of the offcuts from the sleepers went into a fire chute and were burnt. The construction of the first spot mills was pretty rough and crude and they were dangerous to work in. The scantlings from the spot mills were poorly cut and had very little market value.

At a later date these mills were improved and quite a lot of scantling and fence posts were cut in them. Even today a great deal of wastage occurs in the timber industry in our most modern mills. Therefore, another industry which can make use of the waste and produce wood chips which have a ready sale in Japan should be of great advantage to this State.

Last Wednesday, just before the Bill was introduced in the House, I was amazed to pick up *The West Australian* of that day's date and see an article headed, "E.P.A. Reservations on Wood Chip Plan". The article commences—

The Environmental Protection Authority has reservations about the \$11 million wood chip industry proposed for Manjimup.

It believes that the State's obligation to provide annually 670,000 tons of greenweight for 15 years may be irreconcilable with the power of the Conservator of Forests to excise areas for environmental reasons.

The authority's interim report on the project—for which the Federal Government has granted an export licence—was tabled in the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

I will not read all of the article, but I would like to refer to some later paragraphs which read as follows—

Because of the circumstances, the authority considered that its role in environmental management had been changed so that it could not provide an independent comment on the proposal.

RESEARCH

Instead, it had established management machinery with the widest possible expert advice to ensure that appropriate research would start as a matter of urgency.

Dr. O'Brien said that the authority regarded possible salinity problems as its main environmental worry for the area.

The Forests Department commenced its environmental impact study in early April, 1973, believing it had up to 18 months to complete its evaluation. After four short weeks, the department was told to complete the study within the next two weeks.

I would like to pose this question: How could any authority, in such a short period of time, come up with a worth-while report on such an important matter? I am aware that the environmental position is covered in the Bill. The proposed new clause 30A reads as follows—

30A. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to exempt the Company from compliance with any requirement in connection with the protection of the environment arising out of or incidental to the operations of the Company hereunder that may be made by the State or any State agency or instrumentality or any local or other authority or statutory body of the State pursuant to any Act for the time being in force;

However, nothing in this clause suggests what the company's costs in connection with this provision will be.

My experience in clearing goes back to the late 1940s when I selected Location 3574, Wellington Place in the Wellington water shed—a virgin block in one of the upper reaches of the Collic River. I cleared about 700 acres, mainly as parkland clearing, and left all the blue gums in the gully. Immediately there was an outbreak of excess salinity in the gully, so much so that today the C.S.I.R.O. and the Public

Works Department are carrying out research in the Wellington water shed regarding the salinity of the Wellington Dam.

The increasing salinity in the Wellington Dam is causing concern. A little north of the property I had in the upper reaches of the Collie River the water shed by the Harris River was in turn shed back into the Collie River. I can clearly recall that some 25 years ago there was little or no salt encroachment in this river stream, but with slight clearing of some 2,000 acres in the upper reaches of the Harris River salt encroachment occurred in the river bed and now, of course, many acres of the Harris River have been spoilt by salt encroachment.

I understand there is provision in the agreement between the wood chipping company and the Government to leave a belt of green timber along the Warren and Donnelly streams, but I doubt if this will have any value in restricting the salinity of the water in that area. My experience—and I am sure other members in this Chamber have had the same experience—is that it is not the clearing of timber on the river banks that causes salt encroachment, but the clearing of timber from the hill tops. When they are cleared the water washes down, the water table rises, and salt encroachment occurs in the gullies.

So it would appear that the Forests Department, which was asked to carry out some research, was given very little time in which to carry out a thorough feasibility study on the possibility of salt encroachment in the areas concerned. When we consider the fact that the agreement provides for up to 27,000 acres a year to be cut for wood chips, that over a period of four years possibly 100,000 acres of timber will be cut and that, possibly, it will be four or five years before we have any knowledge as to what effect this will have on the local streams and environment, the matter becomes really serious, because if this cutting of timber does have an adverse effect on the environment I do not know how it will be reversed. It will not be done in five minutes.

I know that a great deal can be done over a period of 100 years, but once salt encroachment occurs in any area it is very difficult to do anything about it.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Do you know of any salt-affected areas among the farming properties in this proposed licensed area?

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: I do not know of any area where 27,000 acres of timber will be cut in one year.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Not all of it will be cut in one year; it will be a patchwork quilt operation.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: I can show the honourable member the effect of patchwork clearing in the Collie catchment area which is causing a great deal of concern, and research is being conducted there by the C.S.I.R.O. and the Public Works Department to ascertain what can be done to prevent the salt encroachment in the Collie catchment area.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: I realise that what you say is true in that area, but the position will be different in the south and south-western areas of the State.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: When I was a boy there was no salt encroachment in the Collie River. I can recall reference being made to salt encroachment in the Blackwood River area, but many settlers said they would never see the encroachment of salt in the Collie catchment area.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: The point you have missed is that this licensed area will be regenerated very quickly.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: I wonder how quickly an area such as the one in question can be regenerated. The cutting will take a period of time, and I am trying to visualise the type of fire that will be set in the areas that are cut over. Some 12 years ago we had a fire disaster at Dwellingup and the honourable member will no doubt recall that prior to that time the Forests Department advocated it was undesirable to burn the State forests. Many people warned the Forests Department that unless a fire was put through the area there would be a calamity such as the one that occurred at Dwellingup. In the areas around Dwellingup fires were prohibited in the forest belt for nearly 20 years and the mulch in some places was nearly one foot deep. If we cut marri forests in the Manjimup-Pemberton area I wonder what depth of mulch will be on the ground after this cutting has been carried out.

I can imagine that possibly the mulch on the ground will be even greater than what was on the ground in the Dwellingup area before the fire.

When the Dwellingup fire started no fire-fighting equipment was available to quell it and it was fortunate there was no loss of life as a result of that disaster.

The report we have before us was tabled only last Thursday. On the same day the reservations made by the Environmental Protection Authority on the wood chipping project were published in the Press. I was unable to obtain a copy of this report until after lunch today and I am concerned that insufficient research has been made into this project. I do not intend to knock the proposal because I believe that very little has been gained from the red gum forests in Western Australia. Nevertheless I am of the opinion that possibly red gum timber or marri timber has some value. I myself have made a complete set of clover-rolling machinery from marri timber and many of

the log hauliers in the district cut marri timber to build the bodies of the log-hauling trucks. Marri does not splinter in the same way as jarrah or wandoo.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: It is a great deal lighter, too.

The Hon. T. O. PERRY: If it is protected from the weather red gum timber will last for a number of years, but no worth-while use has been made of marri timber up to date. Therefore I believe this project will be not only a great advantage to the State, but also a great advantage to Manjimup provided we are certain of the direction in which we are heading and know the effect this industry will have on the environment in that area. So I take the opportunity to raise this doubt: Do we know the ultimate effect this project will have on the environment in the area in question?

THE HON. F. R. WHITE (West) [5.09 p.m.]: I endorse many of the statements made by Mr. Perry on this legislation so I do not wish to repeat them. However I take the opportunity to express my concern about the undue haste that has been taken to present this Bill to Parliament and also the manner in which it has been presented. What I am concerned about is the lack of consideration that has been given to the members of this Chamber by not presenting to them sufficient information that is available to enable them to speak on this subject in an enlightened manner.

Last Thursday, following the Minister's second reading speech on the Bill, and while the debate was still in progress, a copy of the impact report on the industry now under consideration was tabled in this Chamber. Mr. Perry stated that this report was requested from the Forests Department and that the department was virtually granted only two weeks in which to prepare it. At this point in time to my knowledge we still have not had tabled a copy of the interim report by the Environmental Protection Authority on the proposed legislation. Following the insistence of a member in another place the report was tabled in that Chamber and I was able to obtain a copy of it from there.

The Environmental Protection Authority has stated very clearly that it is not happy about the lack of research on this project up to the present time. It has stated that it is very concerned not only with the possible effect this wood chipping industry will have on the environment, but also with the effect on the environment of the bauxite mining industry that will be established in the same area. In many places in the report by the E.P.A. reference is made to the grave doubts on the possible effect of water salinity and the view is expressed that hasty action should not be taken to establish this project.

Rather surprisingly, the Environmental Protection Authority has made it clear that although in 1969 Parliament passed an

agreement Act, and that early in July, 1973, the present Government signed an agreement with the venturers, it was clearly beyond the statutory requirements of the E.P.A. to recommend whether or not the project should go forward.

Further, the Minister in another place has stated—

Amongst the recommendations of the E.P.A. in its Interim Report I find the recommendation that human and fiscal resources be provided to carry out necessary research as a matter of urgency, . . .

The Minister also made the following statement—

I want to emphasise that the Environmental Protection Authority has not endorsed this project, equally well the E.P.A. has advised me that it is scarcely in a statutory position to disapprove of the project.

As I have said, in its report, the E.P.A. makes great comment on the possible effect on the environment, not only of the wood chipping industry, but also of the proposed bauxite mining undertaking and wood pulping industry that may eventually be established.

Its conclusions are very interesting. I think it worthy that the council should know what the final conclusions of the E.P.A. are. The following appears on page 9 of the E.P.A. report—

8.1 The E.P.A. remains unconvinced that sufficient is known about environmental implications of the woodchip proposal for it to be completely endorsed at this point in time.

In 8.2 of the conclusions we find the following—

It would be unrealistic, however, to ignore the possibility that strong pressures may be brought to bear on the Conservator—

Meaning the Conservator of Forests—

—to neglect such advice as may be given him from time to time.

That is a very pointed statement. We have been advised by various speakers that the control of the wood chipping industry and the clearing in this area will be under the administration of the Conservator of Forests; yet the E.P.A. recognises that pressures may be brought to bear upon the conservator which could cause works to take place against the conservator's wishes and which could harm the environment. On pages 9 and 10 of the report the following appears—

8.3 The E.P.A. also recommends that human and fiscal resources be provided to carry out necessary research as a matter of urgency . . .

8.4 The E.P.A. reservations about this project can be summarised as follows:

on the one hand the State has the obligation to provide 670,000 tons of green weight timber per annum for fifteen years;

on the other hand guided by research findings, the Conservator can excise areas for various environmental reasons.

In simple terms, as research results become available, these two actions may prove to be mutually irreconcilable.

There are strong doubts about this particular industry. There is an expression of opinion that when the research is carried out and the conservator, if he is able to withstand the pressures, desires to restrict clearing out of respect for the environmental conditions it may be impossible to reap the 670,000 tons of green timber per year.

A great deal of work has been done by individual members of the community who are experienced and knowledgeable people. They also express concern at the possible effect on the environment. They do realise, however, that we must also have economic development in areas. They realise that adequate research must take place before the industry is allowed to be proceeded with, because there are the possibilities of serious environmental consequences.

I have no proposals to oppose this legislation. It is obvious the legislation will be carried, but like these other people—like the E.P.A. for example—I also sound a strong word of caution to the Government, to the Conservator of Forests, and to those engaged in the industry, that if they are not very careful they could create a tremendous amount of damage to not only the flora and fauna of the area, but most vitally to the salinity of surface waters and, more importantly, to the underground waters which we require for our domestic and drinking purposes, and for other purposes.

With those words of caution I support the second reading.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [5.20 p.m.]: First I would like to thank those members who have made a contribution to the debate. I think Mr. Ferry set the debate on a very high plane by clearly indicating he had done considerable research on the subject. It is strange for us to find one member should have the opportunity to carry out the necessary research while other members seem to find some difficulty because certain publications are not made available to them.

May I make an explanation on the requested report on marri which I tabled last Thursday. I think you, Sir, had just started to enter the Chamber when I was handed a copy of the report. Accordingly I had no opportunity to explain

to Mr. White why the report had not been tabled. I immediately made a note of this on my notice of papers to be tabled and that is why I tabled the particular report.

It was most interesting to listen to some of the things Mr. Ferry had to say. His exhibition, for instance, of wood chipping was most illuminating and gave members an opportunity to see what is being done.

I was particularly interested in Mr. Ferry's comments on regeneration. I had an opportunity many years ago to look at the set-up of the paper industry at Boyer out from Hobart in Tasmania. The scheme there was based on the regeneration of forests. The industry had to deal with a most difficult timber for the purpose for which it was to be used. The timber is called swamp gum. The company divided the area it possessed into approximately 19 equal sections.

The reason for the 19 areas was that swamp gum takes 19 years to reach full maturity. The company cleared one section per year and after using that timber in its particular operation the company then burnt off to make sure that the seeds germinated in the ground after which it proceeded to the next block.

The ultimate result of this operation would be that after 19 years on returning to the original block they would find a better forest than that with which they started. And so the cycle continued and the operation of the paper industry in Boyer in Tasmania was a continuous one. The industry found it necessary to import pulp from New Zealand to mix with the pulp obtained from the swamp gum which produced the paper in question.

There is a similar industry in the north of Tasmania at Burnie. Both these industries produce paper products in the form of cardboard, and wrapping paper and so on.

Mr. Ferry also said that some Japanese contracts were due to expire in 1975 and he particularly referred to those in the United States and Canada which are the main contracts for wood chips for pulp. Of course the industry must look to other parts of the Pacific area to gain what it wants. This is one of the bases of the wood chipping industry in the south of Manjimup and Pemberton.

Mr. Perry referred to regeneration of the main clearings and he wanted to know how long it would take. It is possible Mr. Perry was not here when Mr. Willmott gave an example of his own property when he cleared a block of land on which there was marri and on which, because of the last war and various other difficulties, nothing further was done. Mr. Willmott said that to his amazement within five years there was a better stand of timber on that land than when he first cleared it. This is an example of how such timber is regenerated.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: But that would not be nearly as large as this area.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: As the industry progresses year after year and as regeneration takes place under the system fore-shadowed I do not think there will be the slightest doubt that we will have a wood chipping industry in perpetuity.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: I hope so.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: So that members may have some further information about the aspects that have been raised the following points may bear repetition in closing the debate—

It is estimated that 1,300 people will be supported by the Manjimup wood chip industry. Most of these people will live in the town, and they will receive an annual pay cheque of about \$2.6 million.

In the wider State context, the Company will contribute about \$1.25 million in rail freight charges; \$370,000 to the Bunbury Port Authority and \$120,000 to the Forestry Department, making a total, including wages, of about \$4.3 million per year.

In addition, the Company will expend \$11 million on plant and buildings, while the Forestry Department will invest another \$600,000, mostly on housing.

Besides the increased population, cash flow and consumer demand in the Manjimup area, the benefits of the wood chip industry will have a wide impact. Factors such as improved transport, schooling, hospitals, general community facilities and intangibles such as a sense of economic well being, will combine to increase the quality of life for existing residents as well as the incoming workforce.

Many of these benefits will radiate from the immediate employment areas. There will be a sharply accelerated demand for technical and general support services. Not only the relatively large-scale industries such as railway maintenance but also the smaller industries and trades which cater for individuals, such as garages, television servicing etc. While wood chips are being exported, fuel, food, consumer goods and technical and domestic services will flow into the Manjimup area. A high proportion of these goods and services will be supplied from the South-West by expansion of existing facilities and creation of new employment opportunities with associated capital investment.

In addition to the immediate prospect of employment for about 430 in the wood chip industry, a possible future 100,000 ton per year pulp mill would require a workforce of 130. On this basis, 560 people could be ulti-

mately employed in the Manjimup wood chip and pulp industry. Assuming a 3:1 population/workforce ratio, about 1,680 people would be directly supported by the industry. These people would distribute something like \$3.4 million in the South-West each year.

It is important to note that the chip and pulp industry is designed to continue forever by replanting of harvested timber. Also, that demand for cellulose fibre is growing at an unprecedented rate throughout the world. Plastics are the only possible competitor, yet so-called "plastic paper" developed in Japan cannot compete on economic grounds and is becoming even more costly as the world oil price spirals upward.

Wood chips will be exported from the Port of Bunbury. Each year the Bunbury Port Authority will receive about \$340,000 in revenue alone. The wood chip industry is viewed as a substantial source of revenue to the Port Authority at an early stage in the new port development.

In the past, sawmill waste has had a nuisance value only and its disposal has been costly. The position will now reverse, as mill waste will earn its keep to the extent of \$300,000 a year by utilisation in the chip industry.

By introduction of co-ordination in logging operations, the sawmilling industry in Manjimup will be saved up to 20 per cent. of current logging costs. At an estimated cost of \$5 per load for an average haul of 15 miles, the saving will be about \$300,000 a year.

Upgrading of rail track in the South-West as a direct result of the wood chip industry will give faster and more frequent rail services; for example containerised fruit transport to Fremantle for overseas shipping and perishables to metropolitan markets.

The W.A.G.R. will receive about \$1.25 million a year from rail freights. This will assist in broadening the base of the railways operations in the South-West and enable it to contain rising costs which will benefit existing users. Dieselisation of railway operations has caused redundancy in some sectors of the workforce. These people have been reluctant to leave their established homes. Increased activity resulting from the wood chip industry will fully utilize these people. Present utilization of W.A.G.R. facilities is only 25 per cent. of the full capacity in the Manjimup area. This will increase to over 60 per cent. on a regular basis by the wood chip industry. The wood chips and alumina enterprises will enable the establishment of extensive servicing

facilities at Bunbury, instead of sending locomotives to Perth. A skilled labour force will consequently be built up in the South-West.

In conclusion, the wood chip industry will provide an immediately and rapidly growing contribution to the South-West. Both the Company and the State are committed under the Agreement to inject massive finance into the region. \$2.6 million will be distributed each year in Company pay packets, while no estimate has been made at this stage of increased employment in the railways, port, road upgrading and the whole range of technical and consumer support services and industries.

Estimation of workforce directly employed in a typical 750,000 tonne per annum wood chip plant:

Operation	Employees
Felling, logging	135
Chip mill	65
Transport, handling	60
Administration, research	50
Services	30
Consequential	35

So the total number of workers associated with the various operations will be 375. Also, the Forests Department will employ another 55 men so the total number of additional employees will be 430.

Mr. Perry raised the question of road maintenance tax to be paid on vehicles using the roads, and he referred to the fact that the tax has to be paid on vehicles using public roads. I could give a couple of examples of private roads which are in existence in Western Australia and, probably, the classic example would be the road which runs from Hannan's Reward, the open cut mine at the top of Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie. I think the company is Western Mining Corporation and the ore for crushing is carried on a private road. That company does not pay road maintenance tax on vehicles using the road. I think the Western Mining Corporation, in its wisdom, purchased sufficient land to ensure that it could construct a private road. As a consequence, the road was sealed off from public use and the company does not have to pay road maintenance tax. A similar road exists in the Kambalda area where ore is carted from Lake Leftyoy.

By contrast, another big company operating in the north of this State has a road which, I think, the company constructed. However, that road is classified as a public road and consequently the company has to pay road maintenance tax under the provisions of the Act.

The information I have been able to glean is that a road is considered to be private when it is not accessible to the public; in other words, when it is blocked off at both ends to prevent public access and notices are displayed advising that it is a private road and that trespassers will be prosecuted.

That is not to say that somebody would not cut across from another road, some distance away, and use the private road. By so doing such a person would be breaking the law to the extent that he would be using a road on which he was not entitled to operate. Where a road is blocked off, and the gateways are locked to prevent access, it can be classified as a private road. There is no necessity to pay road maintenance tax while using a private road.

The problem of private roads is one which will have to be worked out. It is not my function or duty to explain to the various companies how they can convert a road which they have built and which, perhaps, they maintain, so that they do not have to pay road maintenance tax.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: But surely the vehicles will cross public roads.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: As soon as they cross a public road they will become liable for road maintenance tax.

The Hon. T. O. Perry: They will have to cross public roads.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is right. As soon as they cross public roads they will pay road maintenance tax, but while the vehicles are on private roads there is no necessity for it to be paid.

The Hon. J. L. Hunt: How does G.M.K. get on when it crosses the main road in Kalgoorlie?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It does not.

The Hon. J. L. Hunt: That company crosses the Williamstown road.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: Yes, it does cross that road.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It would be most difficult to assess the tax for crossing one road over a short stretch of three or four miles. It is probable that the Transport Commission plays "Lord Nelson".

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Yes, I think it does.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That the company does pay tax, or does not?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: No, the commission plays "Lord Nelson".

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I have been told the company does not pay road maintenance tax and not being the inquisitive or squizzy type I have not inquired further.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have been told that your Government is not keen to collect it, either.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is another story which I will take up at some other time.

Some time ago I sent to the Minister for Forests a letter which I had received from the West Australian Wildflower Society. That society was concerned with the possible detrimental effect which the operations of the company might have on

wildflowers. A letter I have received from the Minister for Forests should clear up the fears expressed by Mr. White. The five points raised by the society are covered by clauses of the Bill, and are referred to by the Minister as follows—

- (1) The new clause 30A covers general environmental protection.

Under the Forests Act the Forest Department is given the responsibility of regenerating areas of State Forest that are cut over.

Within the Schedule to the principal Agreement the right to reserve areas for conservation purposes is contained in condition 9.

- (2) Safeguards to control salinity are contained in provisions to restrict cutting in sensitive areas (condition 9)—

That is a most vital point which will be of interest to Mr. Ferry, and which was referred to by a very close namesake in Mr. Ferry. Mr. Ferry referred to the fact that the area under discussion is mostly flat, undulating, gravelly country quite different from that surrounding Collie. To continue—

—and to take all action required by the Minister to avoid the pollution (including significant salinity changes) of any catchment area (condition 21).

- (3) Safeguards for point 2 also apply to gulying and sedimentation in the water catchment areas.
- (4) There is no intention to plant softwood species on any areas involved in the chip wood project. The object of removing the marri is to ensure better regeneration of indigenous species on areas cut over to obtain sawmill logs.
- (5) Apart from the National Park already in existence in the area, the Government is currently considering a proposal to retain the entire coastal strip as National Park. The Forests Department also retains some 150,000 acres within the State Forest in the license area as special reserves for wildlife values.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How far inland does the coastal strip extend?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I could not tell the Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps I could appeal to Mr. Ferry.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: The distance varies. The reference is to coastal sandhill country.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Could the honourable member tell me what the variation would be, in miles?

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: I think Mr. Stubbs referred to a distance of two or three miles.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: To what maximum?

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: I do not know the maximum; probably about nine miles.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The letter continues—

Of the remaining State Forest area to be cut over, twenty percent will be left intact along streams, roadsides and as corridors for fauna, flora and aesthetic preservation. This is explained within the Impact Statement.

That is a very important statement. To continue—

The Environmental Protection Authority has studied both the Impact Statement and amended Agreement and is satisfied that safeguards are adequate from the viewpoints of flora and fauna conservation.

So I think those two aspects would be covered. The final point I wish to make is that I noticed seven or eight questions on the Legislative Assembly notice paper relating to this particular industry. The members who asked the questions seemed to be perturbed about certain things. I do not know the extent of their worries but I have told the Minister for Development and Decentralisation, who introduced the Bill in another place, that I was quite prepared to leave the Bill at the third reading stage until the difficulties were resolved and we had a clear exposition with which everybody was satisfied. I cannot do more than that.

I suggest that if members agree to the second reading, and we go through the Committee stage, I will leave the Bill at the third reading stage until the matters raised in another place are resolved. As soon as the doubts are resolved—which could be by tomorrow or the next day—I would be prepared to move the third reading.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Standing Orders provide that the third reading cannot be taken until tomorrow. The next day would be Thursday, and then we adjourn for a week, do we not?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is right. I expect these matters will be resolved before we adjourn for the break of a week.

I have great hopes that this industry will be a boon to the district where the operations will take place. The Bill is worthy of support from members of this House. I feel the doubts which have been expressed will be resolved and there will be no difficulties whatsoever in the immediate or the distant future. I feel this is an industry which, because of the regeneration capabilities of the forests, will carry on in perpetuity. With those remarks I commend the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. F. D. Willmott) in the Chair; The Hon. J. Dolan (Leader of the House) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Second Schedule—

The Hon. V. J. FERRY: I am grateful for the Minister's comments regarding the application or nonapplication of road maintenance tax to the wood chipping industry. I believe his comments will be useful to the licensee company in its endeavour to obtain the maximum advantage, if one is to be found, in overcoming this charge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their support of the Bill, which I think is a worthy one. Furthermore, I hope Parliament will be able to expedite the passing of this legislation to confirm the agreement already made between the Government and the company. I understand it is necessary to finalise further contractual arrangements between the company and Japanese milling interests, and in order to ensure all the ends are tied up and that firm arrangements can be made in a businesslike way, it is necessary that this legislation be proclaimed with a minimum of delay. I therefore trust there will not be any undue delay.

The Hon. F. R. WHITE: I rise merely to ask the Leader of the House to reply to the interjection of Mr. Arthur Griffith during the second reading debate, when he asked whether the Government was finding the \$2,900,000 for the wharf. The Leader of the House said he would find out before the debate continued. Could he satisfy me on that point?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It was Mr. Arthur Griffith who asked the question, and I replied to him privately later the same day. The Government will find the \$2,900,000 capital cost which is involved but it will get the money back over a period of years through increased rental charges for the area and also through increased wharfage charges. Over a 15-year period the Government will be better off, so it has the better end of the deal.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

JURIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Leader of the House), read a first time.

PROPERTY LAW ACT AMENDMENT BILL*In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. R. F. Cloughton) in the Chair; The Hon. J. Dolan (Leader of the House) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Amendment to Part VII—

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: Clause 3 contains the bulk of this Bill. I have already indicated during the second reading debate that I support the Bill, but I refer only to paragraph (b) of the proposed new section 83A, which appears at the top of page 3. I have on the notice paper an amendment which I will not move immediately because I want to deal with this question generally and I want to draw attention to a situation which I believe this Chamber should consider.

Dealing first of all with an option: an option is not only for the renewal of a lease but also for purchase. So when we talk about an option we must bear in mind that we are talking about two different kinds of animal—one an option of renewal of a lease and the other an option to purchase the property the subject of the lease, which is a different thing altogether and has nothing at all to do with the lease although it may be contained in the lease.

A person might agree to lease premises and the owner might grant in the lease an option of purchase. He might say, "You can lease my premises"—whether it be a house or a farm—"for three years, and if you want to you can buy that property at the end of that time, and I will put an option in the lease." This is frequently done with farms, but the option to purchase really has nothing to do with the lease. The farmer wants to lease his property and the lessee wants to lease it. The farmer is prepared to sell at the beginning of the lease but the lessee has not made up his mind. He takes an option and at the end of the term of the lease he wants the right to say he will exercise his option. That is why he is given an option to purchase.

Frequently the price is fixed at the beginning of the lease, so that at the end of the lease the lessee may exercise his option at a certain price. It is no good if the price is not fixed at the beginning of the lease, because by the time the lease expires the price could have gone up to such a degree that it would not be worth exercising an option. This is the significant part. A price is fixed at the beginning of the lease, and at the expiration of the lease the person who granted the option might want to get out of it. In the case of a farm, the price might have been fixed five years previously at a time when the price of farm produce was so low that nobody would want to buy a farm. The owner

might be looking for some way out of the option he has granted because of an increase in the value of the property.

An option is a contract which really has nothing to do with the lease, and I say it is quite unfair that someone should be able to get out of it simply because of a technical term in a lease; for example, if the lessee did not water the hydrangeas or if he cut down some native timber on a farm. In order to farm, it is often necessary to cut down native timber, but some leases contain such a condition.

If the lessee happened to cut down some native timber near the house or a shed, when the lease said he should not do so, he cannot exercise his option at the end of the lease. That is a serious situation. If he wants to buy the place, what does it matter that he cuts down the timber? It would not make any difference to the value of the farm, and if he were going to buy the place anyway he would not be concerned about it. However, because of that technicality, a person could be denied a bona fide option to purchase.

The Hon. J. Dolan: When would he make up his mind he was going to buy the place? If the lease runs for five years, early in the period when prices are lower he might not consider exercising his option, but near the time the lease was due to expire I think he would take extreme care not to chop down the native timber.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He might have committed the breach within the first three weeks of the lease.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (The Hon. R. F. Cloughton): Order!

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: He might commit the breach near the end of the lease. The lease document probably says he can exercise his option during the last three months of the lease, so he does not have to exercise it until the end of the lease. However, that does not matter. If he has made up his mind to buy the place, what does it matter that he has cut down some of the timber? If the owner can say, "No, you cannot buy the place because you have cut down the timber", it is utterly irrelevant.

I think most members would believe the object of the Bill is to enable the lessee to exercise his option. Generally speaking, that is the object of the Bill, with one exception. That is what I am dealing with in my amendment. Although we might pass this Bill today and it might be proclaimed by the Governor in a month's time, if the lessee committed a breach a month before the Bill was proclaimed he would be out of court. He could not take advantage of the Bill because of an amendment made in another place to the effect that the Bill operates only in the future and not retrospectively.

Most of us would agree that retrospective legislation is bad. This is the principle which was used in the other place—that it is wrong to give a Bill retrospective effect. However, there are occasions when it is right to give a Bill retrospective effect. If this Bill is good enough to be passed now, it was good enough to come into operation a few years ago when the Property Law Act was passed in 1969, because this provision was then incorporated in the property law in New South Wales.

So I do not know that the principle of retrospectivity has very much to do with this matter. I believe it would be desirable to go back to the original Bill which was introduced in the other place, and insert the amendment proposed in that place. I suspect I am confusing members about this. I hope I will have the opportunity to elaborate further on the matter and to explain any points I have not made clear.

The amendment I have on the notice paper is not quite the same as that proposed in the other House, and I would like members to consider for a minute whether it should not be in the same form as that in another place. That is why I have not yet moved it. I have a feeling we should go back to the original Bill, before it was amended in another place, which stated that the provisions apply to leases whenever they were executed before the passing of this measure.

The Hon. F. R. White: If you have a case where there is an appeal against a contract and the appeal is upheld, is it possible for that decision to be revoked?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I do not think so. I think the provision would operate and the law in force at the time the action commenced would be applicable.

The Hon. F. R. White: Then what would be the advantage of making this retrospective?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The advantage is that we would cover leases which are already in force and still current and in which there are cases where people can take advantage of this unfair situation in law in respect of something which has already occurred. If we pass the Bill as it stands we will deal only with breaches of leases which occur in the future and not those which have already occurred.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It would mean that a person would be disadvantaged; that is, the provision would apply only from the date of proclamation?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: That is right. A person who has already committed a technical breach would be disadvantaged because he would be debarred from exercising his option.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: He has committed a breach of the law as it stands.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: He has committed a technical breach, but I think it is stretching it a bit to say that he did so with full knowledge of the law because the average person would not have a detailed knowledge of the law. I know Mr. Logan is thinking that a person is deemed to have knowledge of the law, and ignorance is no excuse. It is true that he may have committed a breach under the existing law, but I am saying it is very hard on a person who has committed a technical breach of a lease which has nothing to do with an option of purchase to debar him from exercising his option of purchase. I would be grateful to hear the views of the Committee regarding my amendment.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The amendment is to insert words after the word "omission" in page 3, line 5. The word "omission" does not occur in that line.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: That was changed in another place.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The copy I have must be the original Bill, and not the Bill as amended. I am a little concerned about whether we should correct things that have happened between the time when the Act was passed four years ago and the present time. I feel we might be treading on dangerous ground by introducing retrospectivity regarding mistakes which have occurred in that period.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is not a mistake in the Act; it might be a mistake or a breach in the instrument.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It is up to people to know the provisions of the Act.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Mr. Medcalf was talking about a possible breach of an instrument between two persons.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I am still confused. A fellow may have been disadvantaged last year under the present Act, but he would not have been disadvantaged had the proposed amendment been in force at that time. Does the honourable member want to correct that situation so that such a person will not suffer?

Sitting suspended from 6.06 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: Before the tea suspension I was discussing whether the Bill should be returned to the form in which it was originally when introduced in the Legislative Assembly. What appeared on page 3 of the Bill before it was amended illustrates with a little more force what I have been saying. Under the original proposed section 83B relating to construction and application of the division, the following appears—

(2) This Division applies to and in respect of leases granted before or after the coming into operation of the Property Law Act Amendment Act, 1973, and options contained therein.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (The Hon. R. F. Claughton): I would point out that as amended that provision in the Bill states, "after the coming into operation of the Property Law Act Amendment Act, 1973."

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I was looking at the Bill as it was before it was amended. So, now this particular provision will apply only to leases granted after the coming into operation of the Property Law Act Amendment Act, 1973.

If we look at the Act itself we find certain provisions which apply to leases before or after the coming into operation of the Property Law Act. For example, section 77 (4) applies to leases granted before the coming into operation of the Act, and various other sections apply likewise.

There is nothing wrong with the suggestion that the provisions in clause 3 should apply to leases in force before the coming into operation of the amending legislation. In fact, this is entirely in line with the existing provisions of the Act. It was intended that this Act should apply to leases which were already in existence, and to options contained in these leases. I believe this is a reasonable proposition for the reasons I have stated.

By agreeing to my proposal we would not be affecting anything which has already occurred. If someone has exercised an option then that will operate under the existing law; in other words, if an option has been exercised we would not have to apply the provisions in clause 3 and make an approach to the court.

This is made clear by the Interpretation Act. Section 13 states—

Where an Act passed after the thirteenth day of April, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, repeals wholly or in part any former Act, and in lieu of the repealed provisions substitutes other provisions, such repealed provision shall remain in force until the substituted provisions come into operation.

The new provisions will not come into operation until this amending Bill has been proclaimed, but if my reasoning is accepted they will apply to future options which relate to past breaches.

In section 16 of the Interpretation Act we find the following provision—

Where any Act repeals or has repealed a former Act or any provisions or words thereof, or where any Act or enactment expires or has expired, then, unless the contrary intention appears, such repeal or expiry shall not—

(b) affect the operation of the repealed or expired Act or enactment, or alter the effect of the doing, suffering, or omission of anything prior to such repeal or expiry; or

- (c) affect any right, interest, title, power, or privilege created, acquired, accrued, established, or exercisable, or any status or capacity existing, prior to such repeal or expiry; or
- (d) affect any duty, obligation, liability...

If someone had exercised an option last month it would be governed by the previous law, but next month after this Bill becomes law if an option is exercised it will apply only if the breach complained of takes place after the amending Bill has been proclaimed—unless we make it apply to previous leases.

It seems to me we should think very carefully before we pass the clause, as amended in another place. We should give further consideration to the clause, because it is a matter of considerable importance to people who at present hold leases in respect of which they can exercise options to purchase, and who may be put out of a court by this Bill if the failure to do something of a technical nature occurred before the Bill had been proclaimed. The Minister might be agreeable to progress being reported so that the matter can be given further consideration.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I feel that is the wise course to follow. There is no urgency about the Bill.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Leader of the House).

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS AND FALSE ADVERTISEMENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. R. F. Claughton) in the Chair; The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 8 put and passed.

Clause 9: Section 8 amended—

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The Minister indicated in the second reading debate that he would accept the amendments I have placed on the notice paper. I therefore merely wish to advise members briefly of the purpose of my amendments. In the first two amendments I propose to delete the reference to "inaccurate" relating to offences in advertising or in statements of trade descriptions.

Whilst the word "inaccurate" has been inserted in a keen desire to protect the public, it could cause hardship to people whose business it is to advertise, because it is almost impossible to confine an advertisement to matters of strict accuracy.

Advertisements do serve a useful purpose, but it is a fact that sometimes it is impossible to be completely accurate. On

the other hand we do not condone misleading advertising which is quite reprehensible and is something in which no reputable advertiser would wish to indulge.

I have a number of examples of what might be called inaccurate advertising which illustrate that it would be impossible in a court of law, where the onus of proof is on the advertiser, to prove that there had been strict attention to accuracy. For example, in the *Daily News* of Wednesday, the 29th August, appeared an advertisement for a motorcar firm in which that firm was described as the naughtiest show in town. I do not think that would be strictly in accordance with the best principles of truth in advertising, although I do not know because I naturally have not seen the naughtiest show in town. Another firm said its car was the cheapest new car which could be bought. That would take some proving.

A jewellery firm advertised that it had fantastic diamond values which would not be seen anywhere else in Perth. A building society advertised that it was the best place to save. Another firm said it was the Father's Day specialist. A well-known brand of washing soap is said to be lemon charged, but it is also said to whiten naturally. That seems to be a conflict of terms.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Another says that it is whiter than white.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The Leader of the Opposition is quite "wight"! Then one brand of chicken is said to taste like chicken really should. Another firm, selling foodstuffs, says that it takes two hands to handle a whopper.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It does, too.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I would not know what that refers to; it might be difficult to prove what a whopper is to start with.

My only point in mentioning those advertisements is that nothing really is wrong with them. No-one is misled by them and so long as a firm does not engage in misleading the public, we should not be too strict. I believe the Minister has indicated he will accept this amendment which I move—

Page 4, line 27—Delete the word "inaccurate".

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I wish to thank Mr. Medcalf again for explaining the position so clearly. I indicate now that I will accept all the amendments.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I move an amendment—

Page 4, line 35—Delete the word "inaccurate" and substitute the word "misleading".

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I move an amendment—

Page 7, line 34—Delete the word “prevented” and substitute the word “withdrawn”.

At present in the case of broadcasting stations the Minister must issue a warning before prosecuting in connection with any advertisement. The effect of a provision in the Bill is to include television stations with radio stations. Once the warning has been issued, the licensee must prevent any statement in question from being published. In the old Act the word “withdrawn” was used. In other words the statement must be withdrawn from the list of scheduled advertisements.

I am not suggesting we put back the list of scheduled advertisements, but I do suggest that we allow some leeway to the radio or television station, because it is not always possible to prevent the publication of an advertisement. All that a licensee of the station can do is to withdraw the statement. In practice, such is the speed of advertising, with so many advertisements being shown to the hour, etc., that even after a warning has been issued the radio or television station could be in default because the advertisement is published by the announcer without his having knowledge of the fact that it should have been withdrawn.

Under my amendment, if an advertisement were inadvertently published immediately following the warning by the Minister, the station would presumably get the benefit of the doubt. The Minister has kindly indicated that he believes this is a reasonable amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I move an amendment—

Page 7, lines 38 and 39—Delete the words “being published” and substitute the word “publication”.

This amendment merely involves terminology. One word is being substituted for another to make the provision read better.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 10 and 11 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [7.56 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West) [7.57 p.m.]: I would like to bring to the attention of the House a matter I consider to be of some importance. This morning, in company with a number of other members, I attended the Annual

Conference of the Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association Incorporated held in the McNess Hall. The conference was opened by Mr. H. D. Evans, the Minister for Agriculture, and the president of the association (Mr. Henry Gubler) spoke prior to requesting the Minister to open the conference. In that speech the president stated—and this is reported on page 5 of the record of the annual reports and proceedings of the association—

With the rejection of the statutory marketing authority Bill by Parliament last year, the above committee was set up to replace the liaison committee.

Again he states—

The Bill was eventually rejected by Parliament. It is a great pity when something of this nature becomes political.

Mr. Gubler was to some extent more accurate than the Minister, and I will mention the Minister's comments a little later. Mr. Gubler did state that Parliament had rejected the Bill, although even that was not strictly true. Parliament did not reject the Bill. Parliament consists of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council, and the Governor-in-Executive-Council. However, the Bill was dropped.

What alarmed me was the statement of the Minister (Mr. H. D. Evans). I think it was Mr. Wordsworth who the other day said—

The uncontested absurdities of today are the accepted slogans of tomorrow.

The comment about the fate of that Bill is an uncontested absurdity of yesterday which has become the accepted slogan of today. The Minister stated that the Legislative Council had failed to pass the apple and pear Bill. That is not true and the Minister knows it because it has been drawn to his attention. He is repeating something which is not true. I think you, Mr. Acting President (Mr. Willmott), handed that Bill on behalf of the Opposition, and you would be well aware of the fact that the Bill was amended, read a third time and passed, and then sent back to the Assembly.

The Government's purposes may well have been frustrated by the amendments made in this Chamber, but certainly the Bill did not fail to pass this House.

I have in my hand paper No. 83 headed, “Legislative Council rejects Apple Bill”. It is a Press release which starts—

The State Government's Bill to establish an Export Apple Marketing Board, which passed through the Legislative Assembly on November 21st, has not been passed by the Legislative Council.

Again, that is not true. This paper was called for at the request of Mr. Wordsworth and was laid on the Table of the

House, I presume, by Mr. Dolan some time ago. It is dated the 24th November, 1972. It goes on—

The Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. H. D. Evans expressed his disappointment at the rejection last night.

That is not true.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: It is not the first time!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In a way it is understandable in the frustration of the moment for a Minister to state an untruth to the Press, but it is quite disgraceful, having made the statement once, to perpetuate that untruth by continual repetition. This is simply not good enough because, in his capacity as a Minister of State—quite apart from the fact that he is a member of a different political party—he represents all of us as an adviser to Her Majesty the Queen or to Her Majesty's representatives.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It certainly is false advertising.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is right and it belittles the whole of the institution of Parliament, as such, when this sort of untruth is continually repeated. It was repeated again today at a conference of fruitgrowers drawn from all over the State.

Surely a Minister of the Crown should tell the truth. He could have said that the Government's purpose was frustrated by the actions of the Legislative Council, but it is simply not true to say the Bill failed to pass the Legislative Council. At that time the President must have said, "The question is that the Bill do now pass." A vote was taken in the affirmative; the Bill was returned to the Legislative Assembly; and we received no answer back.

It is not as though this has not been drawn to the attention of the Minister because Mr. Wordsworth asked for the Press release to be tabled and it was tabled. I will not read out all the Press release because doubtless members read this in the newspaper. The cogent part is the first paragraph in which the Minister for Agriculture said that the Bill had not been passed by the Legislative Council. Nearly 12 months later he is repeating the same falsehoods. This is a reflection on the Legislative Council because we, in fact, passed the Bill. We may not have passed it in the form the Minister himself would prefer, but that is quite beside the point. Anyone who has sat on the ministerial bench in this Chamber has suffered that fate at some time—and not always at the hands of the Opposition, I might add.

I am not reporting this merely on my say so. It is possible to check this with Mr. E. H. M. Lewis, Mr. A. A. Lewis, Mr. Sibson, Mr. McPharlin, Mr. Ferry and Mr. Rushton as well as myself. There is not the slightest shadow of a doubt that a

Minister of State in Western Australia—the Minister for Agriculture—perpetuated that untruth.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: A lie, in other words!

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I wish to draw the attention of the House to this matter. I believe the Minister ought to give some explanation. As I have said, initially he may have given the Press release in the heat of the moment and mistakenly made that statement. However this cannot be the case after 12 months and I believe there is an obligation on the Leader of the House to draw the attention of the Minister for Agriculture to this fact and to ask him to refrain from calling this House into disrepute in this way by making accusations about it which simply are not true.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [8.05 p.m.]: I wish to support Mr. MacKinnon who has accurately reported this matter to the House. I was present this morning at the opening of the 1973 Annual Conference of the Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association and the Minister for Agriculture had been invited to perform the opening ceremony.

I wrote down his words as he was speaking when he referred to the legislation which was brought before the Parliament and discussed in this House last year. He referred to the projected formation of an apple and pear board in Western Australia and this morning he used the words, "failed to pass the Legislative Council". That was no accident. Obviously it was done deliberately.

I also have in my possession a copy of the *Warren-Blackwood Times* newspaper dated the 29th November, 1972. There appears on the front page an article under the caption, "Evans disappointed at rejection of board". It states, in part—

Agriculture Minister H. D. Evans has expressed his disappointment at the rejection by the Legislative Council of the State Government's Bill to establish an Export Apple Marketing Board. The Bill passed through the Legislative Assembly on November 21.

It seems that the Minister for Agriculture is deliberately misleading the electorate at large. It is not fair, proper, and certainly not accurate to say that this was the case in respect of this piece of legislation. Mr. Evans has definitely said that it failed to pass the Legislative Council. I believe Mr. MacKinnon has correctly stated what happened. The Legislative Council debated the legislation, amended it, passed it, and referred it back to the Legislative Assembly for its further deliberations but the Government chose not to proceed with the measure. It is important that it was the Government's choice not to proceed with the Bill. The Government had open to it

a course for further discussions in the Parliament but it chose not to take this course. The Bill was not defeated by the Legislative Council nor did it fail to pass this Chamber.

Certainly it is not correct for the Minister for Agriculture to make these comments about the Legislative Council. The Minister for Agriculture knows the position and deserves the strongest censure because orchardists and the industry itself are being given a wrong steer. As a responsible Minister and member of the community it behoves the Minister correctly to portray the situation at all times. For this reason he deserves the strongest censure. I have pleasure in supporting Mr. MacKinnon's remarks.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.07 p.m.]: I will refer the remarks made by Mr. MacKinnon and Mr. Ferry to the Minister for Agriculture and, of course, I will inform the House of any action he intends to take.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Before the Minister sits down. It occurs to me that the notice paper is sparse, to say the least. What plans does the Minister have for the remainder of this week?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I intend that we should sit tomorrow but, unless anything unusual eventuates, we will not sit on Thursday. Let us review the position tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.08 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 18th September, 1973

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Norton) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (35): ON NOTICE

1. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

Accelerated Repayments

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to the answer to question 4 of Wednesday, 12th September—

- (1) How many letters for increased repayments were sent out to farmers who had received financial assistance from the Rural Reconstruction Authority?
- (2) How many farmers have replied to the letter?

- (3) What number of farmers have agreed to increase their repayments?
- (4) How much extra money has been repaid up to date?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 562.
- (2) No statistics have been kept because answers have been received by letters, telephone and personal interviews. The number of replies could be in the vicinity of 80-100.
- (3) There have been no agreements to increase repayments. The letter sent to successful applicants only urged them to give careful consideration to accelerating repayments.
- (4) Nil.

2. NATIONAL REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION SCHEME

Impact on State Government Insurance Office

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) With reference to the answer given to my question 20, 11th September, 1973, is it the intention of the State Government to make a submission to the national rehabilitation and compensation scheme inquiry additional to that made by S.G.I.O. in view of the fact that S.G.I.O. made no submission on its attitude or the Government's attitude to the Commonwealth's proposal and only conveyed information regarding S.G.I.O. operations?
- (2) If no such additional submission is to be made, will he give this Parliament an indication of the Government's attitude to the Commonwealth's national rehabilitation and compensation scheme and particularly the Government's attitude to its impact on S.G.I.O. operations and funds?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The intention of the Australian Government to establish a national scheme of rehabilitation and compensation is in accord with the policies of my Government. The question of impact on S.G.I.O. operations and funds presupposes the result of the inquiry and recommendations made, of which I am unaware.

3.

WOOL

Storage at Ports

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) With an expected increase in the sale of wool using core testing and mini samples, have any steps been