**NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL 2010**

**Legislative Assembly, 27 November 2010, page 1789**

Second reading

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—** **Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for the River Murray, Minister for Water):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

As required by section 234 of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, a review of the operation of this act was undertaken before the end of the 2006-07 financial year. In August 2007, the report arising from this review was laid before both houses of parliament by the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

By way of background, the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 amalgamated three acts that dealt with three significant areas of natural resources management separately. These statutes were: the Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986, the Soil Conservation and Land Care Act 1989 and the Water Resources Act 1997. This amalgamation was designed to deliver more effective and integrated natural resources management through new regionally focused NRM boards and the state-level NRM Council that the new act established for South Australia. The act also provides for an integrated and transparent system to ensure South Australia's natural resources are managed in a manner that supports ecologically sustainable development.

The report on the Review of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004, as tabled in parliament, made over 60 recommendations that included a number of recommended legislative amendments. This bill seeks to clarify existing provisions, simplify administration, improve flexibility and address inconsistencies.

The Natural Resources Management Review Amendment Bill 2010 includes provisions that:

* refine, simplify and clarify some processes in the legislation and provide a solid base for additional amendments that may be required in the future;
* allow for more expedient water conservation measures by simplifying the processes;
* promote Aboriginal engagement in natural resources management in South Australia by requiring consultation with relevant bodies; and
* provide for significantly increased penalties for water theft.

This bill is fundamental in making the operation of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 more effective and efficient, thereby ensuring that South Australia is well equipped to meet future challenges in natural resources management. The government looks forward to bipartisan support for the passage of this legislation. seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.