**ANIMAL AND PLANT CONTROL (AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION AND OTHER PURPOSES) (INTERIM CONTROL BOARDS) AMENDMENT BILL 1996**

**House of Assembly, 24 October 1996, page 372**

Second reading

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Minister for Primary Industries**)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986. Read a first time.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

The prime object of this short Bill is to facilitate the effective operation of local animal and plant control boards during the amalgamation process for Local Government.

A main reason for the amendment is to allow statutory funding of animal and plant control boards by local government and the Animal and Plant Control Commission.

The Animal and Plant Control Act provides for the control of animals and plants for the protection of agriculture and the environment and for the safety of the public.

The Animal and Plant Control Commission which is under the general control of the Minister for Primary Industries is responsible for administering the legislation through local animal and plant control boards.

The Act allows for one or more councils to form a control board to operate in the area of the constituent councils.

Prior to the current amalgamation of councils there were 30 multi council boards and 10 single council boards which employed 75 full time equivalent (FTE) authorised officers.

The council amalgamations present an opportunity to reduce the number of boards after the local government changes have been made.

The proposed amendment to the Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act will facilitate this without prejudice to the current administrative structure which has been established on the recommendations of the Commission.

Explanation of Clauses

*Clause 1: Short title This clause is formal.*

*Clause 2: Insertion of s. 15A*

This clause inserts a new section in the Act to deal with the problem that arises when a constituent council of a control board amalgamates with another council. It is provided that the control board in this situation will remain in existence and its area and membership will remain unchanged until a proclamation is made to dissolve the board. If a vacancy occurs in the board’s membership during this period, the Commission will appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy.

Mr ATKINSON secured the adjournment of the debate.