**VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1953**

**Legislative Assembly, 12 August 1953, pages 339-40**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S, HINCKS (Minister of Lands**), having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Vermin Act, 1931-1945. Read a first time.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. Section 12 of the Vermin Act provides that two or more district councils whose districts are contiguous may form what is called an associated district councils ’ vermin board. When duly constituted, the board takes over all the powers given by the Act to the associated district councils relating to the destruction of vermin and, in effect, the board administers the Act on behalf of the councils forming the associated vermin board.

Section 12provides. that a board so constituted is to comprise one member from each district council. The member for each council is to be nominated by the council and is to be one of its councillors. If a member nominated to the board ceases to be a councillor in the council by which he is nominated, his seat on the board is to be vacated and a fresh nomination made. So far, only one associated vermin board has been formed and this is a board known as the Mid-Murray Associated District Councils’ Vermin Board and comprising the district councils of Mannum, Marne, Keyneton and Swan Reach.

As before stated, the board consists of one member from each of the associated councils and both the board and the Murray Lands District Councils Association have suggested that the representation of councils be increased from one to two members. Such an increase, it is considered, will make for the more convenient working of the board. Among other things, if a council is represented on a board by one member only and if that member is not able to be present at a meeting of the board, then the council is not represented at that meeting. Accordingly, clause 2 provides that, instead of each associated council having one representative on the board, there will be two members from each council. Section 16 of the Act provides that the proceedings of the board are to be regulated by the provisions of Part VII. of the Local Government Act, which deals with the procedure at meetings of councils. Among other things, Part VII. lays down the rules for ascertaining a quorum and, as applied to these associated vermin boards, provides that one-half of the members is a quorum.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.