**DISTRICT COUNCILS ACT 1852**

Full title: *An Act to appoint District Councils and to define powers thereof*

The key provisions in this act are:

* Provides for the division of areas in South Australia, for election to District Councils, and for the management of affairs within the Local Government district. Districts to be formed by the Governor.
* Covers the voting process to elect a Council and penalties for false voting.
* Defines who is eligible to act as a Counsellor
* Describes meeting procedure
* Has the responsibility to licence Pounds under the Impounding Acts. Also to issue licences for slaughter houses, for depasturing crown lands and issuing timber licences.
* Outlines the broad role and operating arrangements to undertake the responsibilities of a district council.

Note: Prior to 1857 the colony of SA was ruled by a Governor responsible to the British Crown. Legislation was enacted by the Governor following consideration by a five person Council of Government and later expanded to seven and called the Legislative Council. No Hansard was prepared.

Acts passed between 1836 and 1857 are covered on this History of Agriculture site with the full title and summary of the key provisions of the Act.