**ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BILL 1973**

**Legislative Assembly, 6 November 1973, pages 1595-6**

Second reading

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Education) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to constitute the Roseworthy Agricultural College as an autonomous college of advanced education; to provide for its administration, and define its powers, functions, duties and obligations; to repeal the Agricultural College Act, 1936-1940; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It represents a further step in the Government’s programme of improving the status of colleges of advanced education. Its purpose is to provide the Roseworthy Agricultural College with an autonomous administration in which both staff and students of the college will participate. The Bill thus confers on Roseworthy the same kind of status as that enjoyed by the other colleges of advanced education in this State. The Bill contemplates that the college will continue, as it has in the past, practical agricultural operations. This is, of course, vital if the students of the college are to obtain adequate experience in the techniques of agriculture and also in the application of the principles of economy and business management that are so necessary if primary production is to be carried on economically and to the public benefit.

The Bill also contemplates further expansion in the functions of the college. The Government believes that the Roseworthy college is the appropriate institution to provide instruction not only in the science and techniques of primary production but also in the techniques involved in processing the produce of primary production for various commercial purposes. In this regard the college is already well known throughout Australia for its oenology course. The Bill provides for the constitution of a governing body consisting of 16 members. In accordance with the policy of the Government, the governing body is to contain some members drawn from the academic staff of the college, the students of the college, and the ancillary staff (that is, other employees) of the college.

Other members will be drawn from associated institutions and from relevant sections of the community. There is to be a Director of the college who will be responsible to the council for the management and administration of the college. The council is empowered to make statutes and by-laws governing the administration of the college, and the conduct of students, staff, and other persons while on the college grounds. The remainder of the second reading is concerned with the clauses, and I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses incorporated in Hansard without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

The effect of the various provisions of the Bill is as follows: clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 provides for the repeal of the Agricultural College Act, 1936-1940.

Clause 4 contains a number of definitions required for the purposes of the new Act. Clause 5 provides for the Roseworthy Agricultural College to continue in existence. It provides also that the college is to be a body corporate with full legal capacity to enter into contracts and incur other legal rights or liabilities. Clause 6 sets out the functions of the college. It is to provide advanced education and training in the theory, management, and practice of primary production, in the methods of marketing the produce of primary production, and in the nature and management of industrial processes involved in agricultural processing industries. It may also provide advanced education and training in such other fields of knowledge and expertise as the council may determine after consultation with the Board of Advanced Education. The college is empowered to conduct research into the theory and practice of primary production, the marketing of agricultural products, and into agricultural processing industries. The college is empowered to provide post-graduate or practical courses for the benefit of those engaged in occupations for which the college provides education and training. The college is empowered to carry on the business of primary production, to market agricultural products, and to engage in any agricultural processing industries to the extent that the council considers necessary or desirable for the purpose of performing its primary function of providing advanced education and training.

Clause 7 empowers the college to confer degrees, diplomas, and other awards accredited by the South Australian Board of Advanced Education. The college may also award scholarships to students of the college. Clause 8 prohibits the college from discriminating against or in favour of any person on the ground of sex, race, marital status, or religious or political belief. Clause 9 provides that the college is to be managed and administered by a council constituted of 16 members. Clause 10 provides for the appointment of a President and Vice-President of the council. Clause 11 deals with the terms and conditions upon which the members of the council shall hold office. Clause 12 deals with the conduct of business by the council. Clause 13 provides that an act or decision of the council shall not be invalid by reason of vacancies in its membership. Clause 14 provides for the council to be the governing authority of the college, and empowers it to do all things necessary for the proper administration of the college.

Clause 15 provides that, in, the exercise of its powers and functions under the new Act, the council should collaborate with the South Australian Board of Advanced Education, the Education Department and the Further Education Department, the Agriculture Department, the Australian Council on Awards in Advanced Education, the Australian Commission on Advanced Education, and any other body with which collaboration is desirable in the interests of promoting the objects of the new Act. The college is empowered to make arrangements with the Agriculture Department that will conduce to the proper instruction of students of the college or the efficient conduct of business in which the college is engaged. Clause 16 deals with the internal organization of the college. Clause 17 provides for the appointment of the Director of the college. Clause 18 deals with the formation of a students’ representative council.

Clause 19 provides for the vesting of property in the college. Clause 20 provides for the transfer of staff from the Public Service to the employment of the college. A working party is now preparing a basis upon which present staff will have the right of individual determination as to whether they wish to transfer from Public Service employment to college employment, or to remain with the Public Service and leave the college. The basis for staff transfer will be identical with that which operated successfully when the former teachers colleges became colleges of advanced education. Clause 21 empowers the council to make statutes dealing with the administration of the college. Clause 22 empowers the council to make by-laws. Clause 23 deals with various ancillary matters affecting statutes and by-laws.

Clause 24 provides for the council to make a report upon the administration of the college in each year. Clause 25 provides for the college to keep proper accounts of its financial affairs. Clause 26 is a financial provision. Provision is made for the annual costs of operating the college to be met by the Treasury. The Bill also provides that part of the net income arising from the sale of farm produce shall remain with the college to assist in further development. Clause 27 enables the college, with the approval of the Treasurer, to borrow money for the purpose of its functions under the new Act. Clause 28 exempts the college from gift duty, land tax, and rates under the Local Government Act. Clause 29 provides that the Public Service Act is not to apply to the college or any employee of the college in his capacity as such.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.