**NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1981**

**Legislative Assembly, 19 February 1981, page 3029**

Second reading

 **The Hon. D .C . WOTTON (Minister of Environment**) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1972-1978. Read a first time.

The Hon. D .C . WOTTON: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time. It amends the National Parks and Wildlife Act on two separate subjects. First, it deals with the seizure and forfeiture of firearms or other objects used in the commission of offences against the principal Act. At present, the power to order forfeiture is vested in the Minister. The Government believes that this power would lie more appropriately in the court before which the owner of the forfeited object is convicted of an offence. Accordingly, a new provision is proposed by the Bill under which objects that have been seized under the principal Act may be forfeited to the Crown by order of a court before which the owner is convicted of an offence against the principal Act.

If no such order is made, or if proceedings are not commenced within three months of the date of the seizure, the object is to be returned to the owner. If the Minister, after making reasonable inquiries, is unsuccessful in ascertaining the whereabouts of the owner, he may sell or otherwise dispose of the object. The Bill also amends monetary penalties prescribed by the principal Act in order to take account of the effect of inflation on the value of money. I seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 deals with the forfeiture of confiscated objects in the manner outlined above. Clause 4 increases monetary penalties prescribed by the principal Act.

The Hon. J.D . WRIGHT secured the adjournment of the debate.