**STATUTES AMENDMENT (WHEAT AND BARLEY RESEARCH) BILL 1983**

**Legislative Council, 21 April 1983, page 980**

Second reading

**The Hon. B.A. CHATTERTON (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Wheat Marketing Act, 1980; and to amend the Barley Marketing Act, 1947-1980. Read a first time.

The Hon. B.A. CHATTERTON: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time. It provides for the collection of wheat and barley research funds additional to those raised and distributed by the Commonwealth and has been sought for some time by the United Farmers and Stockowners of S.A. Incorporated. The measure has widespread support within the grain section of that organisation, which strongly argues that it is not possible to sustain appropriate levels of research into South Australia’s principal grain crops under the existing funding arrangements. Evidence supporting that argument may be found in the barley research trust fund which already is displaying signs of financial difficulty and undoubtedly will require an early injection of extra moneys.

It provides for payments to be made by the Australian Wheat Board and the Australian Barley Board into the respective cereal research trust funds. These payments will be deducted from growers’ returns and each grower will be presumed to have agreed to the arrangement unless he or she gives written notice to the contrary. These proposals will have no direct effect on the State’s revenue but the Department of Agriculture, along with Roseworthy Agricultural College and Waite Agricultural Research Institute, will be able to apply for funds from the relevant research committee to undertake research work.

Such committees already have been established in each State under the Wheat Research Act 1957 and the Barley Research Act 1980 of the Commonwealth and it is considered both feasible and appropriate that the committees established for this State should administer the additional funds raised under this Bill. However, it is additionally proposed, in the interests of wheat and barley growers, that there be two three-member committees, one representative of wheat growers and the other representative of barley growers, whose function it will be to recommend to the Minister the appropriate deduction from crop proceeds each season. I seek leave to have the detailed explanation of the clauses inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the measure is to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation but that the operation of specific provisions may be suspended by the proclamation. Clause 3 sets out the arrangement of the measure. Clause 4 provides the new citation for the Wheat Marketing Act as it would be affected by the enactment of this measure.

Clause 5 inserts in the Wheat Marketing Act a new section 28a. This proposed new section provides at subclause (1) that where the Australian Wheat Board (which was established under the Wheat Marketing Act 1979 of the Commonwealth) acquires wheat of a season from any grower, a payment of the prescribed amount shall, with the consent of the grower, be made for wheat research purposes out of the moneys payable to the grower by the board for that wheat. The prescribed amount is defined by subclause (11) to be the amount obtained by multiplying the number of tonnes of wheat of the season acquired by the board from the particular grower in question by the prescribed rate for the season. ‘Prescribed rate is defined by subclause (11) to mean the rate fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Gazette pursuant to subclause (10). The rate is, by virtue of subclause (10), to be fixed by the Minister upon the recommendation of a three-member committee appointed by the Minister under subclause (8) to represent the interests of persons engaged in the wheat industry. Subclause (2) provides that the payment for wheat research purposes is to be made by the board to the Minister who is, subject to subclause (3), to pay it to the Commonwealth Government for payment into the Wheat Research Trust Account established under the Wheat Research Act 1957 of the Commonwealth.

Subclause (3) provides that the board is to be entitled to presume that each grower from whom it acquires wheat of a season has consented to the making of the payment, but that, where any such grower indicates to the Minister, by notice in writing given during the month specified in the definition o f ‘prescribed period’ in subclause (11) in relation to the particular season, that he does not consent to the payment, then the Minister is to pay the prescribed amount to the grower out of the moneys that he (the Minister) has received from the board under this provision. Subclause (4) provides that the Minister may bank or otherwise invest the moneys pending their payment to the Commonwealth or to those growers who do not wish to contribute to wheat research and have exercised the right under subclause (3) to opt out.

Subclause (5) provides that moneys earned through the investment of moneys referred to in subclause (4) shall be paid to the Commonwealth for payment into the Wheat Research Trust Account. Subclause (6) provides that payments made by the Minister to the Commonwealth under this provision are to be made upon the condition that the moneys are expended in South Australia. This provision links up with sections 6 and 7 of the Commonwealth Wheat Research Act, which provide for the establishment of separate wheat research accounts for each State and require amounts paid upon such a condition to be paid into the account for the particular State and for the account to be applied only in research expenditure in that State. Subclause (7) provides for the keeping of accounts by the Minister and for such accounts to be audited by the Auditor-General. Finally, subclause (12) provides that the new section is to apply to all wheat of the 1982-83 season of each subsequent season.

Clause 6 makes provision for a new citation for the Barley Marketing Act. Clause 7 provides for the insertion in the Barley Marketing Act of a new section 19a. This proposed new section corresponds exactly to the proposed new section of the Wheat Marketing Act explained above apart from necessary changes so that it applies to barley instead of wheat. As with wheat, there is a Commonwealth Act relating to research, the Barley Research Act 1980 of the Commonwealth, which corresponds almost exactly to the Wheat Research Act of the Commonwealth. This new section is also to apply to the 1982-83 season and subsequent seasons.

The Hon. H.P.K. DUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.