**ARTIFICIAL BREEDING ACT REPEAL BILL 1984**

**Legislative Council, 31 October 1984, pages 1627-8**

Second reading

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to repeal the Artificial Breeding Act, 1961. Read a first time.

The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

This short Bill provides for the repeal of the Artificial Breeding Act, 1961. That Act provided for the establishment of the Artificial Breeding Board. The functions of the Board were, amongst other things:

• To establish and operate centres for the collection and storage of semen for the artificial insemination of stock.

• To purchase semen from other sources to supplement supplies.

• To establish field services and distribution centres for the insemination of stock. • To investigate infertility and promote the use of artificial insemination where economically feasible.

On 1 September 1962 the Artificial Breeding Board of South Australia commenced operations at Northfield on departmental land, where a semen collection and distribution centre was developed.

In the early l970s frozen semen of high fertility was developed and the cost of operating proven bull schemes was considered prohibitive. Consequently, it was considered expedient to accept a proposition from the Victorian Artificial Breeders Co-op to lease the Northfield Centre. The South Australian Artificial Breeding Board ceased to operate as a semen collection and distribution organisation on 31 December 1974. In August 1975 a new Artificial Breeding Board was appointed with a watching brief on artificial breeding in the State, including a liaison with the Victorian firm.

In 1977 Victorian artificial breeders ceased producing semen and the centre became a semen distribution point under the agency of Herd Improvement Services Co-op Ltd. (HISCOL). In 1983 HISCOL restricted sales of semen to its Yankalilla office and the Northfield facilities were taken over the Department of Agriculture’s Dairy Research and Veterinary Sciences Sections. It is considered that the watching brief previously provided by the Artificial Breeding Board can now be provided by the industries concerned.

Since the enactment of the Artificial Breeding Act in 1961, artificial breeding as a management aid has extended from the dairy industry to most species of livestock through privately run operations. A Government artificial breeding operation is no longer warranted as the original objective of laying the foundations for artificial breeding has been achieved. Industry has been consulted and there is general agreement with the proposal to repeal the Artificial Breeding Act. The industries concerned have nominated a contact person so that the Minister of Agriculture may obtain industry opinion on artificial breeding matters should it be necessary to do so. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for the repeal of the Artificial Breeding Act, 1961.

The Hon. J.C. BURDETT secured the adjournment of the debate.