**SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1974**

**Legislative Assembly, 24 September 1974, page 1096**

Second reading

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Swine Compensation Act, 1936-1972. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is introduced as a consequence of the present very healthy situation of the Swine Compensation Fund established under the principal Act, the Swine Compensation Act, 1936, as amended. The healthy state of the fund is evidenced by its accumulation of substantial reserves. After considering alternatives, and after consultation with the industry, it has been decided:

(a) to provide for a more flexible method of deter­mining the amount of stamp duty to be paid under the principal Act but, at the same time, providing for a maximum amount of duty to be payable, the effect of which should enable the income of the fund to be more readily adjusted;

(b) to increase the grant from the fund for the Pig Industry Research Unit, conducted by the Agriculture Department at Northfield, from a maximum of $10 000 a year to a maximum of $25 000 a year; and

(c) to enable surplus of revenue over expenditure to be applied for the benefit of the industry generally.

These proposals have received the approval of representative sections of the industry. To consider the Bill in some detail, clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 makes some drafting amendments to the interpretation section of the principal Act to bring that section up to date Clause 4 amends section 12 of the principal Act which provides for the establishment of the Swine Compensation Fund, and the amendments provide:

(a) that bulk payments of duty to the Minister in lieu of payments by means of duty stamps will be credited to the fund; although in the past such payments have been dealt with in this way it has been thought prudent to make this clear;

(b) for the recasting of the provisions of this section that provide for payments out of the fund; briefly, the following payments may be made:

(i) for the cost of administration of the principal Act;

(ii) for compensation under the principal Act;

(iii) by way of grants to the Pig Industry Research Unit which have by this amendment been increased by a maximum of $15 000 a year;

(iv) to assist the industry generally.

Apart from the increase of the grant to the research unit referred to above, the most significant alteration made here is to enable annual surplus amounts to be applied for the benefit of the industry. The Government intends that, in the disbursement of these amounts, it will pay close attention to the views of the industry expressed through an informal committee intended to be established.

Clause 5, by amending section 14 of the principal Act, merely provides that, in future, stamp duties will be fixed by regulation, subject of course to the limitation that they will not exceed the present rates. In fact, the maximum payment in respect of any one pig or carcass is, by this provision, reduced from 35c to 21c. As indicated, the provision of a flexible arrangement of this nature will enable the revenue accruing to the fund to be reduced, if this becomes necessary.

Mr. ALLEN secured the adjournment of the debate.