**SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1985**

**Legislative Council, 9 October 1985, pages 1167-8**

Second reading

**The Hon. FRANK BLEVINS (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Swine Compensation Act Amendment Bill 1936. Read a first time.

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

The prime purpose of the principal Act, originally, was to pay compensation to owners of pigs that either died or were condemned because of notifiable diseases on the farm or in the slaughterhouse. The use of the compensation fund was broadened in 1968 to provide for an annual allocation for research, and again in 1974, so that funds considered surplus by the Minister could be used for any purpose which was of benefit to the pig industry.

The prime purpose of this Bill is to update the Act in relation to fixed monetary values that have depreciated with the passage of time. Other minor changes designed to simplify the operation of the Act have also been included.

The first change is to provide for an increase in the maximum market value of a pig from $60 to $250 per pig. This upper limit has not been altered since 1965 and is now quite inadequate compensation. The proposed maximum market value of $250 is only marginally greater than the current market value of a large pig. The proposed change provides for the amount, in future, to be prescribed by regulation.

The second change is to make specific provision for the payment into the fund of moneys arising from the sale of property purchased from moneys provided by the fund. The third change provides for an increase in the annual allocation for research and investigation relating to the pig industry from $25 000 to $50 000 per annum. This amount has not been altered since 1974 and the proposed increase is in accordance with inflation over this period. The proposed change provides for the amount in future to be prescribed by regulation.

The final change to the Act is to give formal recognition to the committee advising the Minister in relation to the management of the fund. The Swine Compensation Fund Advisory Committee has in fact been functioning with the proposed terms of reference since 1974. While the committee was not specifically referred to in the Act, its existence was agreed to and recorded in Hansard at the time the Act was varied in 1974 to provide for the use of surplus funds for the benefit of the pig industry.

The Bill sets out the constitution, terms and conditions of office of members of the committee and its functions. The primary function of the committee is to advise the Minister in relation to the management of the fund, particularly in relation to the expenditure of surplus funds on projects which benefit the pig industry. It would also advise on future variation of the stamp duty levy on pigs slaughtered and the maximum amount of compensation payable in relation to a pig.

In formulating these amendments, there has been close consultation with the relevant industry organisations: the United Farmers and Stockowners (Pig Section) and the Australian Pig Breeders Society (SA Division). It can be said that the pig industry is supportive of the amendments proposed in this Bill. I seek leave to have the detailed explanation of clauses incorporated in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 are formal.

Clause 4 amends section 4 of the principal Act by inserting a new definition—‘the Committee’.

Clause 5 amends section 6 of the principal Act, which provides for the amount of compensation payable in respect of a pig that has died because of disease or has been destroyed because it is suffering from or suspected of suffering from disease. The maximum market value of one pig for the purposes of compensation is increased to $250. The power to vary this amount has been removed from the principal Act and can now be prescribed by regulation.

Clause 6 amends section 12 of the principal Act, which provides for the establishment of the Swine Compensation Fund. Express provision is made for moneys arising from the sale of property, originally purchased by moneys provided by the fund, to be paid back to the fund. Secondly, the amount of moneys allocated annually by the fund for research and investigation relating to the pig industry, is increased to $50 000.

Clause 7 inserts a new Part into the principal Act, establishing the Swine Compensation Fund Advisory Committee and detailing its constitution and advisory functions.

The Hon. M.B. CAMERON secured the adjournment of the debate