**PRIMARY PRODUCE (FOOD SAFETY SCHEMES) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL 2005**

**Legislative Assembly, 3 March 2005, pages 1893-4**

Second reading

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)** obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Act. Read a first time.

The Hon. R.J. McEWEN: I move: That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

A clear aim in developing the Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Act was to enable a smooth transition for businesses from currently legislated food safety systems to the new legislative framework. This still remains a government commitment and this Bill is proposed so that minor amendments can be made to the Act to ensure a smooth transition for the dairy industry and any other industry with similar needs in the future.

The dairy industry strongly supports the current method of periodic collection of fees from farmers and processors for the operation of the Dairy Authority, as it is the most cost effective method available and hence minimises costs to industry. The Bill proposes amending the Act so that periodic fee collection can occur.

With development of draft dairy food safety regulations it has become apparent that the administrative complexities of moving from the current licensing system to an accreditation system require different transitional provisions than currently provided in the Act to ensure a smooth transition, particularly regarding fees. To also cover potential transitional issues for other industries it is proposed to amend the Act to enable transitional regulations to be made that can be made specific for the needs of any industry in the future. The changes will also enable more flexible transitional fee arrangements for the meat industry.

I commend the Bill to Members.

EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Amendment provisions These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Act 2004

3—Amendment of section 17—Periodic fees and returns

The current provision provides only for annual fees and returns. The amendments enable the regulations to specify the period in respect of which fees and returns are to be provided.

4—Amendment of section 46—Regulations This amend makes it clear that the regulations may deal with savings and transitional matters.

5—Amendment of Schedule 1—Related amendments, repeals and transitional provisions

This amendment repeals the provision that related to fees for accreditation following a temporary accreditation under the clause. Greater flexibility is needed because it is proposed to continue different periodic arrangements for different parts of the industry. Any transitional issues will be handled in the regulations.

Dr McFETRIDGE secured the adjournment of the debate.