**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEAT CORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1976**

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, 24 NOVEMBER 1976, PAGE 2447**

**Second Reading**

**The Hon. I. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the South Australian Meat Corporation Act, 1936-1974; to repeal the Port Lincoln Abattoirs Act, 1937; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

**Explanation of Bill**

This Bill provides for the transfer of the Port Lincoln abattoir to the South Australian Meat Corporation. The Port Lincoln abattoir was established under the Port Lincoln Abattoirs Act, 1937, to be repealed by this measure, and is vested in the Minister of Agriculture. The transfer is the result of the abolition of the Produce Department, which, until it was recently absorbed into what is now the State Supply Division of the Services and Supply Department, managed the abattoir. In view of this, the South Australian Meat Corporation, as a statutory authority established for the purpose of operating abattoirs, became the obvious body to take over the operation of the Port Lincoln abattoir.

The transfer is to be a complete transfer of all the property, plant, staff and any rights and liabilities under contracts in effect at the time of transfer. Financial arrangements satisfactory to both the Government and the corporation have been made, and are upon the basis that the corporation is not to be financially advantaged or disadvantaged by the transfer. This will probably involve the Government’s making grants to the corporation for several years after the transfer in order to avoid any financial impact on the metropolitan operations of the corporation.

Regarding the employees at the Port Lincoln abattoir, the Government has agreed that no employee is to be disadvantaged by the transfer. The Bill provides that any public servant engaged in duties at the abattoir may continue that work as a public servant for 12 months after the transfer, during which period he may obtain a transfer to other duties as a public servant or elect to become an employee of the corporation. The Bill also amends the principal Act, the South Australian Meat Corporation Act, 1936-1974, by providing that the corporation need appoint only one auditor instead of two auditors, as is the present requirement.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the measure is to come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation, Clause 3 amends section 2 of the Act, which sets out the arrangement of that Act. Clause 4 inserts in the interpretation section, section 3, definitions of “Port Lincoln abattoirs” and “Port Lincoln abattoirs area” and makes consequential amendments. Clause 5 makes a consequential amendment to section 6 of the principal Act. Clauses 6, 7, 8, and 9 amend sections 41, 43, 44 and 45, respectively, of the principal Act, and deal with the appointment by the corporation of one auditor instead of two, as is presently required. Clauses 10 and 11 amend sections 52a and 78, respectively, of the principal Act consequential on the transfer of the Port Lincoln abattoir to the corporation.

Clause 12 provides for the enactment of a new Part IVA in the principal Act dealing with the Port Lincoln abattoirs, New section 93a provides for the repeal of the Port Lincoln Abattoirs Act, 1937. New section 93b provides for the complete transfer of the Port Lincoln abattoirs and its incidents to the corporation. New section 93c provides an option to public servants engaged in duties at the Port Lincoln abattoirs to continue those duties for 12 months, during which period they may obtain a transfer within the Public Service or elect to become employees of the corporation. New section 93d provides for proclamation of the Port Lincoln abattoirs area.

New section 93e empowers the corporation to maintain, operate, or extend the Port Lincoln abattoirs and its facilities. New section 93f provides that the land for the Port Lincoln abattoirs is to be taxed separately from other land held by the corporation. New section 93g regulates the slaughtering of stock within the Port Lincoln abattoirs area, and the sale within that area of meat not slaughtered at the Port Lincoln abattoirs. This provision corresponds to section 6 of the Port Lincoln Abattoirs Act, 1937, and, in relation to the metropolitan operations of the corporation, to section 70 of the principal Act. New section 93h provides for the corporation to publish the times at which the Port Lincoln abattoirs are available for slaughtering operations. New section 93i excludes the possibility of councils licensing private abattoirs to operate within the Port Lincoln abattoirs area.

This provision corresponds to section 8 of the Port Lincoln Abattoirs Act and, in relation to the metropolitan operations of the corporation, to section 79 of the principal Act. New section 93j empowers the Minister to grant permits to persons to bring meat into the Port Lincoln abattoirs area, to slaughter stock within that area or to sell within that area meat not produced at the Port Lincoln abattoirs. This provision corresponds to section 10 of the Port Lincoln Abattoirs Act, 1937, and, in relation to the metropolitan operations of the corporation, to sections 70a and 77 of the principal Act. Clause 13 makes a consequential amendment to section 119 of the principal Act.

Mr. GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.