**METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1986**

**Legislative Assembly, 17 September 1986, page 933**

Second reading

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act 1946. Read a first time.

The Hon. M.K. MAYES: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Explanation of Bill

It accompanies the Bill for amending the Dairy Industry Act and is designed to restrict the issue of new milk producers’ licences under the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act. The amendments are therefore similar to those proposed for the Dairy Industry Act, thus ensuring uniformity of action under both Acts. This measure will allow the Metropolitan Milk Board to help reduce milk production and improve the viability of existing milk producers.

The Metropolitan Milk Supply Act and regulations are also being amended to increase penalties under the Act to $2 500 and under the regulations to $1 000. Existing penalties of $200 and $100 have not been increased since 1946. These amendments are therefore proposed to make the penalties more realistic and to increase the effectiveness of the Act.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal.

Clause 3 amends section 29 of the Act to enable the board, on the application of the holder of a milk producer’s licence, to amend the licence by deleting the reference to the premises in the licence and substituting a different premises as requested by the holder of the milk producer’s licence in the application.

Clause 4 amends section 32 of the Act. Under proposed new subsection (3a), when the Minister forms the opinion that the issue of further milk producers’ licences would lower returns to milk producers thus rendering dairy farming uneconomic, the Minister may direct that no further licences be issued. Proposed new subsection (3b) provides that a declaration under proposed new subsection (3a) does not affect an application for renewal of a current licence. Proposed new subsection (3c) permits the Minister to revoke a declaration. Proposed new subsection (3d) requires the Board to comply with Ministerial directions under proposed new subsection (3a).

Clause 5 increases from $200 to $2 500 the penalty for contravention of any term of an order of the Metropolitan Milk Board admitting a licence holder to a milk prices equalisation scheme in force in respect of milk supplied to the metropolitan area.

Clause 6 increases from $100 to $1 000 the maximum penalty that may be imposed under the regulations for a breach of any regulation.

Clause 7 increases the general penalty provided under section 47 of the principal Act from $200 to $2 500.

Mr GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate