**LIVESTOCK (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL 2011**

**Legislative Council, 30 November 2011, pages 4817-8**

Second reading

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Tourism, Minister for the Status of Women):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill is about improving the current operation of the Livestock Act 1997. The current act came into operation in January 1998 and represented the consolidation of eight acts relating to the health of livestock in South Australia. The act incorporates support for a number of important national agreements, for example, the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) and the national agreement for funding of emergency responses to exotic disease incursions, ensuring that South Australia is in harmony with livestock legislation enacted elsewhere in Australia.

The act provides for registration requirements in relation to the keeping of livestock to ensure fast and effective tracing of livestock in the event of the detection of an emergency animal disease. There are also registration requirements in relation to artificial breeding centres and veterinary diagnostic laboratories. These requirements ensure that the minimum necessary standards are complied with for the protection and benefit of the state’s livestock industries.

The act provides the government with the ability to investigate and control any animal disease or contaminant that may impact on the health of livestock, people or native or feral animals, or the marketability of livestock or livestock products.

The act also provides for the establishment of livestock advisory groups, which advise the minister directly on matters affecting the sectors that they represent. Currently, there are seven advisory groups (sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, deer, alpaca and horses). These groups have greatly assisted the government in developing appropriate policy for their particular sectors of the livestock industries. The advisory groups representing those industry sectors that have funds established under the Primary Industry Funding Schemes Act 1998 also act as the consultative committee for the respective funds, providing advice to the minister in relation to the administration of the funds.

Good governance requires continual legislative review to ensure that the regulatory framework meets the needs of the community without stifling endeavour or putting at risk the enviable health status of our livestock industries. It is recognised that this relatively contemporary piece of legislation can be improved with fine tuning certain existing provisions, removing obsolete or unnecessary provisions and including new provisions that will give the livestock-owning communities greater say in how animal health-related diseases and issues are dealt with.

Amendment of the act is proposed to enable recovery of costs from individuals who refuse or fail to take required disease control actions, beyond just the expenses incurred by inspectors. This is particularly aimed at the apiary sector where a significant amount of taxpayer and industry funds are used to clean up neglected and abandoned hives and hive material, which present a biosecurity threat to the bee and honey industries.

Specific provisions for the allocation of a property identification code (PIC) to all properties with livestock have been developed to provide for more equitable penalty provisions for persons in breach of the requirements and to improve the current PIC system. The PIC is an essential component of the NLIS and provides vital information about livestock properties for use in disease emergencies and natural disasters. These new provisions will not change the current requirements and operation of the PIC registration system.

The amendments to improve operation of the act commenced with the release, in August 2009, of a discussion paper that identified a number of issues of interest and invited comment from stakeholders on the working of the act and the proposed amendments. Stakeholder comments were fully supportive of the proposed general amendments, and recent consultation confirmed that these amendments are still supported. The proposed amendments to the act establish cost recovery of the animal health program and are not being pursued at this time.

Following amendment of the act, Biosecurity SA will be consulting with relevant industry sectors in developing any necessary consequential amendments to the regulation. The bill contains a number of enhancements that will benefit primary industry producers, and I commend the bill to members and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.