**VERTEBRATE PESTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1977**

**Legislative Council, 5 April 1977, page 3098**

Second reading

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Vertebrate Pests Act, 1975. Read a first time.

The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON: 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.

Explanation of Bill This short Bill amends the principal Act, the Vertebrate Pests Act, 1975, by deleting the designation in that Act of the Permanent Head of the Department of Lands as the Chairman of the Vertebrate Pests Control Authority. This amendment will enable implementation of the recommendation of the Committee of Inquiry into the Public Service under the chairmanship of Professor D. C. Corbett that the administration of the Vertebrate Pests Act be transferred to the Minister and Department of the Public Service concerned with primary industry, that is, at present, the Minister of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the measure shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 amends section 5 of the principal Act by deleting the definition of “Permanent Head”. Clause 4 amends section 8 of the principal Act by providing that the Chairman of the authority shall be the person holding or acting in an office determined by the Governor. This will obviate the need for amendment of the Act if there is any future change of administrative titles.

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE secured the adjournment of the debate.