FRUIT AND PLANT PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1976

Legislative Council, 29 July 1976, page 301

Second reading

**The Hon. B. A. CHATTERTON (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries):** 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

It amends the Fruit and Plant Protection Act in two respects. First, it provides for a simplified and more expeditious procedure in the event of an outbreak of pests or disease affecting fruit or vegetables. At present when such an outbreak occurs, it is necessary for a proclamation to be made under section 7 of the Act proclaiming quarantine areas and restricting the movement of fruit and plants from those areas. The administrative procedures involved in making a proclamation necessarily take several days to complete. As the initiation of measures to control an outbreak of pests or disease is usually a matter of great urgency, the Government believes that it would be better if these measures could be initiated by the Minister by publishing a notice in the Gazette. The Bill also amends section 9 of the principal Act in a corresponding manner. This section, in its amended form, will enable the Minister to require orchardists to take specified measures to prevent the spread of pests or disease from an affected area.

A further amendment proposed by the Bill enables the Governor to prescribe fees to be paid in respect of services provided under the principal Act. A schedule of fees was prescribed under the Vine, Fruit and Vegetable Protection Act (the predecessor of the present Act) and, following advice from the Crown Solicitor, it is considered desirable that specific power be conferred to prescribe fees under the Fruit and Plant Protection Act. The Bill accordingly provides this authority. Clause 1 is formal. Clauses 2 and 3 transfer to the Minister powers formerly exercisable by the Governor. Clause 4 provides that the Governor may prescribe fees for the purposes of the Act.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.