BEEF INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE BILL 1975

House of Assembly, 11 June 1975, page 3299

Second reading

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide financial assistance to certain specialist beef producers in the State 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 leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

All honourable members of this House will be aware of the currently depressed state of the beef market and the hardships that are presently being undergone by those dependent on this industry. This concern is shared by the Commonwealth Government and, it goes without saying, by this Government. As evidence of this concern, agreement has been reached between the Governments for the establishment of an emergency assistance scheme. This scheme will be financed by equal contributions by the two Governments and will provide short term finance at a concessional rate of interest. It is intended that advances from the fund proposed to be established will be made to “specialist beef producers” who cannot obtain “carry on finance” from their usual sources but who, if they can obtain assistance of the kind provided for, will be able to remain in the industry. It therefore follows that persons seeking assistance must have a sound asset structure and demonstrate future capacity to survive should they be granted assistance.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 sets out the definitions used for the purposes of the measure and I would draw members’ particular attention to the definition of “specialist beef producer”. The effect of this definition will be that only persons who derive the greater portion of their income from beef production will be eligible for assistance.

Clause 4 contains the substance of the measure. Subclause (1) formally provides for the grant of assistance and incidentally provides that the Minister to whom the measure is committed may be advised by a committee appointed by him for the purpose. Subclause (2) indicates the terms and conditions under which assistance will be provided. In this regard, I would draw members’ attention to the schedule to the measure. Subclause (3) sets out the circumstances in which assistance may be granted, and in this regard paragraph *(b)* of this subclause is of particular importance.

Clause 5 provides for the establishment, in the Treasury, of a Beef Industry Assistance Fund. While most of this clause is in the usual form, I would draw members’ attention to the fact that money received in repayment of advances may not be re-lent but are returned to the source, Commonwealth or State, from which they are derived.

Clause 6 provides an exemption from stamp duty and certain other fees on documents executed in connection with the scheme of assistance. I would ask that this Bill receive a speedy passage. The urgent need is self-evident and the administering authorities are ready and able to recommend assistance as soon as the measure is enacted into law.

Mr. RODDA secured the adjournment of the debate.