**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1984**

**Legislative Assembly, 22 March 1984, pages 2778-9**

Second reading

**The Hon. J.W . SLATER (Minister of Water Resources)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, 1936. Read a first time.

The Hon. J.W . SLATER: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

At the present time the penalty for non-payment of rates declared under the provisions of the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, 1936, is 10 per cent of the outstanding rates and is payable when the rates are three months overdue. No further penalty is payable no matter how long the rates remain unpaid. The purpose of this Bill is to provide for a penalty interest rate of 10 per cent on the balance of outstanding rates three months overdue and a further penalty of 1 per cent per month thereafter. The initial moratorium of three months will assist those irrigators whose cash flows are irregular, but the increased level of interest will provide an inducement for early payment from the more tardy ratepayers. The change will ensure that ratepayers do not defer the payment of rates as a cheaper alternative to seeking overdraft funds with which to meet their commitments.

The amendments proposed by this Bill are similar to those made last year to the Irrigation Act, 1930, and a number of other irrigation Acts by the Statutes Amendment (Irrigation) Act, 1983. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 100 of the principal Act. Paragraphs (a) and (b) make consequential amendments. Paragraph (c) inserts two new subsections. New subsection (2) provides for interest at 10 per cent in respect of rates unpaid after three months with an additional 1 per cent of rates and interest at the end of each subsequent month. New subsection (3) is a transitional provision that provides that interest at the rate of 1 per cent calculated at the end of each month will be payable on rates and interest unpaid at the commencement of the amending Act. Clauses 4 to 7 make consequential amendments to sections 104, 105, 111 and 114 of the principal Act.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD secured the adjournment of the debate.