**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1985**

**Legislative Assembly, 19 February 1985, pages 2619-20**

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.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

This Bill amends the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, 1936, to enable capital recoveries to be made from ratepayers in circumstances where rateable irrigation land is excised from the water irrigation rate assessment as a result of development such as residential or industrial development. The Renmark Irrigation Trust is required to make regular repayments of principal and interest on loans made available by the State Government to rehabilitate the irrigation and drainage works in the district and to install a domestic water supply system as an adjunct to the new irrigation system. The means of funding these repayments is to include a component in each half-yearly general irrigation rate declared by the Trust to meet the amount payable to the Government annually.

Development of certain areas within the Trust’s district contiguous to the Renmark township for residential and industrial purposes is reducing the rateable area of the district in that vicinity. This gradual encroachment into the district, which is an inevitable consequence of growth in the Renmark municipality, is slowly reducing the revenue earning area for the Trust. Unfortunately the design of the irrigation distribution system is such that the Trust is unable to declare other areas rateable at the extremity of the district to compensate for the loss adjacent to the township.

In the 38 years since the end of the Second World War, some 130 hectares of rateable land has been developed into residential area. It is conceivable that a similar area will be developed during the remaining 38 years of the loan repayment programme. Because the Trust is unable to develop areas at the extremity of the district to compensate for the loss of a possible further 130 hectares from the present rateable area of 4 434 hectares, during the next 30 years or so, the remaining ratepayers could each be required to contribute up to 3 per cent per year more towards the loan repayments. In view of the above circumstances the Renmark Irrigation Trust has requested that the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, 1936, be amended.

It is considered that the amendments made by this Bill will result in an equitable distribution of repayment of the Government loan among the ratepayer community of the district irrespective of any reductions in the rateable area which may occur during the term of the repayments.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 inserts new section 124a into the principal Act. This section requires payment of a sum representing the landowner’s future contributions to repayments by the Trust of loans for rehabilitation of the irrigation and drainage works. Subsection (3) ensures that money paid under subsection (1) will be used for this purpose by the Trust.

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