**METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1957**

**House of Assembly, 8 October 1957, page 967**

Second reading

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON,** having obtained leave, introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, 1946-1956. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Agriculture)—I move:—

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

Its purpose is to enable the Government to extend the metropolitan area, as defined in the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, 1946. The general objects of this Act are to regulate the production and treatment of milk sold for human consumption in the metropolitan area so as to ensure a supply of milk of good quality produced under hygienic conditions, and to provide for the stabilization and equalization of the returns to the producers.

The metropolitan area, within the meaning of the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, consists of the municipalities and districts within which the Food and Drugs Act operates. For purposes of this Bill it is not necessary to mention them all. The relevant point is that no territory north of the municipality of Enfield is included in the area. The northern boundary of Enfield is a line running roughly east and West a little way north of Dry Creek.

Since 1946, when the metropolitan milk scheme was introduced, settlements north of Enfield have extended considerably, and there have been important developments at Salisbury North and Elizabeth. It seems reasonable to expect that as time goes on there will be substantial further extensions of the northern suburbs. All these rapidly developing areas are outside the territory within which the Metropolitan Milk Board controls the retail milk supply.

The Government has received a request from the board asking that the metropolitan area should be extended so as to take in the towns of Salisbury and Elizabeth. The same request is supported by the representative organizations of the milk producers who supply the metropolitan area. The Government has not yet decided what extensions of the Act should be made, but it seems likely that as residential settlements extend, the ambit of the Board’s jurisdiction will also have to be extended. The Government by this Bill accordingly seeks power to do this. The proposal is that any alteration of the metropolitan area will be made by regulations approved by the Governor on the recommendation of the Metropolitan Milk Board. Under this arrangement the Government and the board will have to reach agreement on the question of what extensions are desirable, and in the last resort Parliament will have control over any proposed changes.

Mr. BYWATERS secured the adjournment of the debate.