

proposals lodged by councils. Secondly, before these arrangements are put in place, the Local Government Boundary Reform Board will need to prepare a report on the extent to which the structural reform has been met, particularly in relation to, first, a significant reduction in the number of councils; secondly, significant reductions in total costs of providing services of local government; thirdly, significant benefits for ratepayers; and, fourthly, other opportunities in structural reform.

The report will also provide a means of recognising and identifying the work done by the board and councils in recording the experiences of this structural reform process. This report is to be tabled in Parliament within 12 days of its receipt by the Minister. The third aspect of this Bill has been drafted at the request of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. It is intended to amend the current section 75 requirement that the investment of funds generated under the superannuation scheme must be carried out on behalf of the Local Government Superannuation Board by investment managers appointed by the board.

The amendment will allow the board to hold some direct investments. The fourth matter included in the Bill relates to European wasps, referred to this evening by the Hon. Paul Holloway and last evening by the Hon. Ian Gilfillan. These introduced pests, that is, European wasps, have developed into a significant public nuisance in South Australia.

As the Hon. Mr Gilfillan said, perhaps if we do not combat these pests in the right way, they may finish up being on a par with the threat of fruit fly in this State. Most members would be aware of the impact of European wasps on the South Australian lifestyle, while their effects on tourism, horticulture and the environment are yet to be quantified, although the Hon. Paul Holloway has given us some examples from industry this evening. Despite the history of cooperation between State and local government on wasp control, the task of eliminating this dangerous pest with current measures has proved impossible.

This Bill seeks to put in place before next summer an order making power to allow councils to direct owners or occupiers of property to take action or destroy any European wasp nests located on their property. This is a reserve optional power as a back up to the actions of responsible landowners. I understand that the Government is currently well advanced in negotiations with local government for a three year subsidisation program to support councils in combating European wasps. I support this Bill and the provisions it introduces, pending the revision of the current Local Government Act.

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS secured the adjournment of the debate.

POLICE (COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The House of Assembly agreed to amendment No. 2 made by the Legislative Council without any amendment and disagreed to amendment No. 1.

BULK HANDLING OF GRAIN ACT REPEAL BILL

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning): 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.

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the *Bulk Handling of Grain Act 1955*.

The core objective of the *Bulk Handling of Grain Act 1955* (the Act) is to convert the storage, handling and transport of grain in bags to a system of bulk storage. In so doing, the Act confers certain rights, powers and duties on South Australian Co-Operative Bulk Handling Limited (SACBH). The conversion to a system of bulk storage was successfully accomplished some time ago.

SACBH is a public, unlisted company limited by guarantee and thus does not have a share capital. It is required to comply with the *Corporations Law* like other companies and its Memorandum and Articles of Association are the constituent documents under which SACBH operates. The Government has no financial interest in SACBH.

Repealing the Act will—

- remove the statutory sole receiving rights of SACBH;
- remove statutory impediments to the commercial operations of SACBH;
- have some financial implications for SACBH, including a possible change in its current tax exempt status.

The 1988 Royal Commission into Grain Storage, Handling and Transport recommended removal of sole handling rights. Other Commonwealth and State legislation contains over-riding provisions or permits marketing boards to appoint authorised receivers so that, in effect, the sole receiver authority of SACBH is largely removed. In practice, however, as there has been little alternative investment in central storage facilities, the majority of grain in South Australia is still received by SACBH.

The management of SACBH believe that the commercial advantages resulting from the repeal of the Act will outweigh any disadvantages.

In 1997, as a response to representations from SACBH, the Act was reviewed to consider whether SACBH required statutory backup (as provided in the Act) given that SACBH is also subject to the *Corporations Law* and the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cth).

The review was conducted by a working party with representatives from growers, marketing boards and the State Government. Consultation was undertaken with press releases and wide distribution of a discussion paper. Submissions received in response to the paper were in favour of repealing the Act. Support for repeal of the Act was given by—

- the Advisory Board of Agriculture;
- the South Australian Farmers Federation;
- the Australian Wheat Board;
- the Australian Barley Board.

The working party concluded that the Act is no longer relevant in the current commercial and economic climate for the following reasons:

- it is inconsistent with a deregulated domestic milling and feed wheat market and the probability of a deregulated domestic market for stockfeed and malting barley;
- it impedes the development of more commercial operating structures to reduce costs;
- it is at variance with the recommendations of the 1988 Royal Commission into Grain Storage, Handling and Transport relating to removal of sole handling rights.

The working party unanimously recommended that the Act be repealed.

I commend the Bill to honourable members.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1: Short title

Clause 2: Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Clause 3: Repeal

This clause repeals the *Bulk Handling of Grain Act 1955*.

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY secured the adjournment of the debate.