

The principal changes to the commission's functions reflect a new emphasis on the wider concept of multiculturalism and an increased emphasis on the integration and coordination of multicultural policies as part of wider public policy making and administration. The proposed new section retains the present provision that the commission should, wherever possible, encourage participation by local government bodies and voluntary organisations.

Clause 13 makes an amendment consequential to the amendment proposed to section 16 of the principal Act.

Clause 14 replaces the present section 16 (which provides for the staff of the commission) with a new section that reflects changes in this area resulting from the enactment of the Government Management and Employment Act in place of the former Public Service Act. The proposed new section makes it clear that the commission may appoint employees, but only with the approval of the Minister and on terms and conditions approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the Commissioner for Public Employment.

Clause 15 contains transitional provisions designed to make it clear that the commission continues as the same body corporate despite changes to its name and constitution and that the present members may continue in office.

The schedule makes amendments of a statute law revision nature only with a view to the publication of a reprint of the Act in consolidated form.

The Hon. L.H. DAVIS secured the adjournment of the debate.

DOG FENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

The Hon. BARBARA WIESE (Minister of Tourism): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Dog Fence Act 1946 provides for the maintenance of the dog-proof fence. The body responsible for the maintenance and inspection of the fence under the Act is the Dog Fence Board. This Bill seeks to make two changes to the institutions or persons that can nominate members of the board. At present one member is nominated by the Vertebrate Pest Control Authority. The responsibilities of that authority were taken over by the Animal and Plant Control Commission under the Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act of 1986. This Bill formally recognises that change. It replaces the right of nomination of the Vertebrate Pest Control Authority with that of the new commission.

At present a second member of the board is nominated by the Minister from a panel selected by local dog fence boards created under the Act. On 4 March 1986 the then Minister of Lands, the Hon. R.K. Abbott, undertook to give that right of nomination to an appropriate incorporated association established to represent local dog fence boards. The Far West Dog Fence Boards Association Incorporated has since been incorporated for that purpose, and this Bill seeks to give that body a right of nomination in place of the existing right of the Minister. The Bill also makes one consequential amendment to the Act and corrects an unrelated cross-reference in section 41 (2) of the Act. I seek leave to have the detailed explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal.

Clause 2 provides for commencement on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

Clause 3 amends section 6 of the principal Act. Section 6 deals with the membership of the Dog Fence Board. Clause 3 substitutes the Animal and Plant Control Commission for the Vertebrate Pests Control Authority as the body entitled to nominate one member of the board. It also specifies the Far West Dog Fence Boards Association Incorporated as another body entitled to nominate one member to the board, in place of the existing right of the Minister to nominate one such member from a panel selected by local dog fence boards.

Clause 4 is a consequential amendment to section 11 of the principal Act. As the right of local boards to nominate to a panel is being replaced by the direct nomination to the Dog Fence Board by the Far West Dog Fence Boards Association Incorporated under clause 3, the reference in section 11 of the principal Act to local boards is no longer necessary.

Clause 5 amends an incorrect cross-reference in section 41 of the principal Act. This change is unrelated to the amendments in clauses 3 and 4.

The Hon. PETER DUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.

[Sitting suspended from 5.56 to 7.45 p.m.]

SOIL CONSERVATION AND LAND CARE BILL

Adjourned debate in Committee (resumed on motion).
(Continued from page 1168.)

Clause 3—'Interpretation.'

The Hon. PETER DUNN: I move:

Page 1, after line 29—Insert new definition as follows:

'fertility' of soil means the level of essential nutrients in the soil necessary for plant growth.

I have moved the amendment because there is no definition of 'fertility' in the Bill. This makes it clear. We have used the term before, and I believe it is important when dealing with soils. I would have thought that a definition which spelt that out was necessary in the interpretation of this Bill.

The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT: This amendment is consequential on two other amendments that were moved previously by the Hon. Mr Dunn, one of which has been defeated. A second one was carried, but since this Committee last met discussions between all parties have occurred. A further agreement has been reached on the definition of 'degradation'. This means that a definition of 'fertility' becomes irrelevant, because it will not now be used in the way that the Hon. Mr Dunn first intended. I believe that, being consequential on an amendment that will not remain in the Bill, it will serve no purpose. In fact, there were even problems with the purpose for which it was intended, because I believe that the definition that the Hon. Mr Dunn wanted to apply was wider than this amendment. For those reasons, I will not support the amendment.

The Hon. BARBARA WIESE: The Government opposes this amendment.

Amendment negatived.

The Hon. PETER DUNN: I move:

Page 1, after line 31—Insert new definition as follows:

'land' means both dry land and submerged land, and includes water on the land, whether in watercourses or storage on the land.