SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1968

House of Assembly, 10 December 1968, page 3132

Second reading

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Swine Compensation Act, 1936-1964. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move:

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

Its purpose is to give effect to the wishes of the pig industry (as expressed by deputations to the Minister of Agriculture from the United Farmers and Graziers of S.A. Incorporated) to provide the Agriculture Department with funds to enable it to establish a pig research unit at the Northfield Research Centre. This unit will provide facilities for conducting research into diseases and nutritional disorders of pigs as a basis for future extension activities by the department in connection with the pig industry. A total of $50,000 is required to construct, equip, and stock the centre, and plans have already been prepared for this purpose. In addition, the industry representatives have agreed to the annual allocation from the fund of an increased amount of $10,000 in lieu of the present allocation of $5,000. This will assist in staffing the research unit and cover contingent expenses.

The research unit will provide facilities for the isolation of pigs undergoing tests and for the study of obscure problems of pig health associated with infective and nutritional factors. The unit will be run by the staff of the Northfield Research Centre under the technical supervision of officers of the Animal Health Branch of the department. Clause 2 amends section 12 of the principal Act so as to provide for the payment out of the Swine Compensation Fund of $50,000 to establish a research piggery to be conducted by the Agriculture Department. It further provides that after July 1, 1969, a sum not exceeding $10,000 a year may be expended from the fund for research and investigation into swine diseases. The amount previously authorized to be expended was $5,000 a year.

With improvements in pig health and the consequent build-up in the compensation fund it was considered by leaders of the industry that money could be spent wisely on research, and the assistance that has been offered will greatly benefit the industry. As the Minister of Agriculture would like the Bill passed through Parliament this week, I will probably ask for it to be discussed later, but as it is a straightforward Bill, I should prefer to have it dealt with immediately, if the Opposition does not object.

Mr. CASEY (Frome): The Opposition supports this Bill, and I agree that the Swine Compensation Fund is buoyant. The Auditor-General reported that there was $348,046 in the fund at present, so that there was ample money to cover the $50,000 required by the department to set up the piggery. I am pleased that the department has done this, because in the last five or 10 years the pig industry has progressed. The sale of pig meat in South Australia has exceeded all expectations but, unfortunately, the housewife has not had the benefit of a lower price for pig meat. Recently, the member for Rocky River said that there was still a disparity between the price paid by the housewife and that received by the producer, but the industry is growing appreciably and the setting up of the piggery will benefit it further. As the Opposition does not wish to hinder the passage of this Bill, I support it.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee’s report adopted.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move:

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

I thank the House for its courtesy, and I have no doubt that the industry will appreciate the speed with which this House has worked.

Bill read a third time and passed.