**GENE TECHNOLOGY (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL 2017**

**Legislative Assembly, 28 September 2016, page 7122**

Second reading

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries):**I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

In 2011, the commonwealth Gene Technology Act 2000 was reviewed and 16 recommendations were presented to ministers at the Gene Technology Forum. Of these recommendations, 14 were supported or supported in principle. These fall within three main categories: modifications to the operations of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator; minor technical, administrative and consequential amendments; and other technical amendments.

In August 2015, the Commonwealth Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2015 was passed without amendment by the House of Representatives and the Senate and came into force on 10 March 2016. This Commonwealth bill encompasses five minor technical, administrative and consequential amendments that have no or minimal impact on the technical operation of the act. South Australia is a signatory to the National Gene Technology Agreement. The agreement is an intergovernmental agreement which sets out the understanding between commonwealth, state and territory governments to establish a nationally consistent regulatory scheme.

This agreement ultimately aims to ensure a national fulfilment of the principles of the gene technology legislation, that is, to protect the health and safety of people and to protect the environment. This is achieved by identifying risks posed by or as a result of gene technology and by managing those risks through regulation or certain dealings which include the manipulation, storage, transfer or disposal of genetically modified organisms. The bill before the house will bring the South Australian Gene Technology Act 2001 into alignment with the commonwealth legislation. These changes will have minimal impact on the operation of the gene technology activities within South Australia.

I commend the bill to members and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses incorporated in*Hansard* without my reading it.