**CITRUS INDUSTRY ORGANISATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1990**

**Legislative Assembly, 5 December 1990, pages 2361-2**

Second reading

**The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Citrus Industry Organisation Act Amendment Bill 1965. Read a first time.

The Hon. LYNN ARNOLD: 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.

Explanation of Bill

The object of this small Bill is to extend by one year the terms of office of the current grower members of the Citrus Board of South Australia which would otherwise expire on or shortly after 14 February 1991.

As members will be aware, the Government has carried out an extensive review of citrus marketing regulation in South Australia, culminating in the release of the citrus white paper in May 1990. The white paper outlined proposals to restructure the Citrus Board for a strengthened role in developing new markets for citrus fruit and assisting growers in adopting new technology for the production of premium products for export. The policies of the white paper have the general support of growers, processors and industry organisations. As a result of this review, the Government will be introducing a Bill for a new Citrus Industry Act and to repeal the Citrus Industry Organisation Act 1965. That Bill will provide for the establishment of a new, restructured Board to organise and develop the citrus industry and the marketing of citrus fruit, regulate the movement of citrus fruit from grower to packers and wholesalers, set grade and quality standards for fruit, provide for powers to be used to set prices and terms of payment for processing fruit in the event of market failure and increase the flow of production and marketing information throughout the industry.

It is the Government’s hope that the Bill will pass in the first parliamentary sittings in 1991 following further consultation with the industry and taking into account any action which might be taken at the national level. It is particularly relevant to review the marketing arrangements for the citrus industry at this time because of the severe fluctuations in world orange juice prices being experienced by the industry and the disruptive effect of these fluctuations on marketing in Australia. The Government is working with the industry in negotiating with the Commonwealth to identify a mechanism for stabilising the import price of frozen concentrated orange juice which would not penalise importers, processors or consumers, and which would not break the rules for trade established under GATT.

It is proposed that the new board will have a broader range of relevant knowledge and skills, particularly in marketing and market development, and will perform functions which are needed to lead the South Australian industry away from being predominantly processing-oriented towards the more profitable fresh fruit export markets.

In view of the imminent introduction of a Bill for a new Act, it is, in the Government’s view, eminently sensible for the current grower members of the Citrus Board to continue in office for whatever the transitional period may be, without the need to go through the costly and time-consuming exercise of conducting an election under the terms of the present Act. For this reason, this measure must pass before Parliament rises, as work for a February election would have to start almost immediately.

I commend the Bill to members.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts a new section at the end of the principal Act to extend by one year the terms of office of the current grower members of the Citrus Board of South Australia. (Should the new board under the new Act come into being before the expiration of that extended term, the old board members must automatically vacate their offices).

Mr MEIER secured the adjournment of the debate.