**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1978**

**Legislative Council, 23 August 1978, pages 677-8**

Second reading

The Hon. T. M. CASEY (Minister of Lands): I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Renmark Irrigation Trust is the authority responsible for the supply of water to agricultural land in the Renmark Irrigation District. Owners of such land who are ratepayers under the principal Act are entitled to be supplied with water under its terms. Although the trust has power to supply water to non-ratepayers in the district, it is not clear that it can do this for any purpose other than irrigation or domestic use. Water is needed for other purposes, such as use by industry, drinking water for stock and for public purposes generally. The trust has no specific power at present to supply water for these purposes. The effect of the Bill will be to give the trust a general power to supply water for any purpose on terms and conditions that it determines. The obligation to supply ratepayers is unaffected by the proposed amendments, and the supply of water to non-ratepayers is subject to the trust’s obligation to ratepayers. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses of the Bill inserted in Hansard without my reading it. Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 removes from section 60 of the principal Act the passage “for irrigation and domestic purposes”. These words restricted the power of the trust when supplying water to townships and are no longer appropriate. Clause 3 replaces and simplifies section 64 of the principal Act, which deals with the supply of additional water. Besides simplifying the section, it removes two anachronistic provisions requiring that additional water be supplied only for domestic and irrigation purposes and only with the Minister’s consent.

Clause 4 amends section 73 of the principal Act which empowers the trust to make regulations and by-laws. Paragraph (a) gives the trust power to make regulations and by-laws for or incidental to the purposes for which the trust is constituted and for the exercise by the trust of its powers under the principal Act. This provision will mean that, in the future, the trust will be less restricted in its regulation-making powers. Paragraph (b) repeals the power given by paragraph IIIa to fix terms and conditions for the supply of additional water. This power is subsumed under the wider power to impose terms and conditions on the supply of water in paragraph XII. Paragraph (c) adds power to make regulations and by-laws on specific subjects. Paragraph XII gives the general power to impose terms and conditions on the supply of water. Paragraph XIII allows for the measurement of water supplied which will enable appropriate rates to be charged. Paragraph XIV deals with the granting of licences for the diversion or taking of water. Paragraph XV increases the penalty that can be imposed for breach of regulations or by-laws from $100 to $200. The penalty was originally £50 and a penalty of $200 is now more realistic.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES secured the adjournment of the debate.