**PASTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1960**

**House of Assembly, 8 November 1960, page 1703**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCICS (Minister of Lands)—**I move—

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

It amends the Pastoral Act to make available to holders of average leases the right already enjoyed by lessees for terms of 42 years of asking the Minister some seven years before the expiration of the lease whether lie will grant another lease of the whole or part of the land and, if so, on what conditions. This right enables lessees some years before the expiration of their leases to obtain a decision which enables them to make plans for the future and it is of great value to them.

Section 95 of the Pastoral Act enables lessees whose holdings comprise leases expiring on different dates to apply for a single lease covering the land concerned and expiring on a date at or about the average date of expiry of the leases surrendered. Such now leases are commonly known as *“*average leases” and increasing numbers of pastoralists have been taking advantage of this provision, which enables them to introduce some order into their affairs and, in fact, it has been the policy of the Government to encourage them to do so. But such average leases do not carry with them the rights granted by section 46 to the holders of leases for 42 years. It is thought that if lessees were aware that by surrendering existing holdings for average leases they were depriving themselves of any benefits that they previously enjoyed under section 46 they would prefer to retain their existing leases expiring on different dates, despite the obvious inconvenience of such an arrangement.

This Bill will rectify what appears to be an anomaly. Clause 3 amends existing section 95 relating to average leases by adding to it provisions similar to those of section 46; that is to say, provisions which will entitle holders of average leases to apply to the Minister seven years before the expiration thereof for an indication of his intentions respecting the position which will arise when the average leases expire.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.