**FRUIT AND PLANT PROTECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1986**

**Legislative Assembly, 17 September 1986, pages 933-4**

Second reading

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Fruit and Plant Protection Act 1968. Read a first time.

The Hon. M.K. MAYES: 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

This short Bill is designed to complement amendments made to the Fruit and Plant Protection Act in 1985.

Those amendments provided that the declaration of quarantine stations, prohibited areas of the State and other matters would be effected by ministerial notice rather than proclamation. This method enables action to be taken swiftly in the event of a threat to South Australian agriculture, and for this reason, it has been decided to extend it to the declaration of pests and diseases under section 3 of the principal Act.

During the passage of those amendments mention was made of proposed subordinate legislation which would bring plant quarantine procedures in line with contemporary technical knowledge and trends in interstate commerce in fruit and plants. Accordingly, further provisions are contained in the Bill to enable subordinate legislation under the principal Act to operate by reference to a published standard or code, exempt persons or classes of persons from the provisions of the Act, and to apply generally or in specified circumstances.

 Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides for declaration by ministerial notice of diseases and pests, a matter presently dealt with by proclamation.

Clauses 3 and 4 insert provisions under which ministerial notices and regulations may be of general or limited application and may incorporate or refer to standards or codes of practice. Provision is made to enable exemptions to be made from the operation of ministerial notices. Regulations may be made providing exemptions from provisions of the principal Act. and conferring powers, functions or duties on the Minister, chief inspector or any other inspector.

 Clause 5 provides for the insertion of a schedule of transitional provisions.

Mr GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.