**RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1954**

**Legislative Assembly, 6 October 1954 page 924**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Irrigation)—**I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Sections 115 and 116 of the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act were first enacted in 1948. Section 115 empowers the Renmark Irrigation Trust to construct and maintain drainage works for the prevention or removal of seepage conditions in the district or any part thereof. Section 116 authorizes the trust to impose a drainage rate to meet construction and main­tenance costs incurred under section 115. This rate is not to exceed 5s. a half year every acre of land rated and the rate is to be imposed uniformly on ratable land over the whole district irrespective of whether the land rated derives benefit from the drainage works. The trust has asked that the Act be amended to provide additional powers to levy rates on land which benefits, directly indirectly, from the drainage works. The trust has pointed out that the annual cost of the drainage works in existence is approximately £12,500 and that the amount recoverable under section 116, that is, at the rate of 5s. an acre a half year, is only £4,500. The balance of the annual cost must therefore made up from the water rate which, of course, is a general rate imposed generally on ratable land. It is therefore proposed by the Bill that, after completion of any drainage works, the trust is to decide what land benefits, either directly or indirectly, from the drainage works and is to serve notice on the owners accordingly. From this notice there will be an appeal, ultimately, to the local court of full jurisdiction.

It is provided by the Bill that the trust may, for the purpose of maintaining the drainage works, impose a special drainage rate on the land which derives benefit from the drainage works. This rate is not to exceed 10s. an acre a half year and will be in addition to the general drainage rate of 5s. previously mentioned. By this means the land benefiting from the drainage works will bear a greater rating burden than other land in the district. It is estimated that the drainage rate will return about £3,000 per annum. It is the practice of the trust to submit to meetings of its ratepayers for amendments of the Act and the contained in the Bill were so submitted to and approved by a meeting of ratepayers held in November last. The Bill is a hybrid Bill within the meaning of the Joint Standing Orders on Private Bills and, if read a second time, will-under the Joint Standing Orders be referred to a select committee.

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