**SANDALWOOD ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1949**

**Legislative Assembly, 23 August 1949, pages 382-3**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Yorke Peninsula —Minister of Lands)—**By this Bill it is pro­posed to make the Sandalwood Act, 1930, permanent. Up to the present the policy has been to extend the Act from time to time for periods of three years, but it has now become apparent that there is justification for having permanent control over the cutting of sandal­wood. The Sandalwood Act was originally introduced for commercial purposes. Before 1930 there was a substantial trade in sandalwood between Australia and China and remunerative prices were being received. These high prices encouraged the excessive cutting of sandalwood and ultimately brought about a consequent substantial fall in prices. In 1930, pursuant to an agreement between the Governments of South Australia and Western Australia, legislation was introduced to restrict the cutting of sandalwood to reasonable quantities with the object of keeping exports at a reasonable amount and stabilizing the price. Control has been maintained ever since 1930, but during the war the trade between Australia and China naturally fell away and for some years there has been practically no sandalwood exported from South Australia. None the less, the agreement between the Governments of South Australia and Western Australia has been kept in force by successive renewals and in the most recent agreement Queensland has also come in as a party. The Government is, therefore, bound by its obli\gations to these other States to seek an extension of the control.

Apart from the commercial aspect, another justification for the control of the destruction of sandalwood trees now exists. In recent years the Government and the public have become alive to the danger of the erosion of the soil arising from the destruction of vegetation and the action of wind. For the purpose of preventing such erosion it is desirable to have power to control the taking of sandalwood. Should the demand for sandalwood again arise there will be a strong temptation to renew the cutting down of sandalwood trees and in that ease it will be necessary for the Government to have power to prohibit or restrict this conduct. The Government therefore asks that the Sandalwood Act should be placed upon the Statute Book as a permanent measure. I move the second reading.

The Hon. R. S. RICHARDS secured the adjournment of the debate.