**PASTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1948**

**Legislative Assembly, 25 November 1948, page 1534**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Yorke Peninsula— Minister of Lands)—**It is the usual practice among pastoralists in the northern part of the State to give notice to their neighbours before mustering cattle on their land. The land in question is almost entirely unfenced and the cattle can wander over neighbouring country at will. The object of giving this notice is thus to enable the neighbours to attend at the mustering and to get their cattle from the mustered cattle. This particularly applied to unbranded calves running at foot and the unwritten rule is that these clean skins when running at the foot of a cow are branded as the property of the owner of the cow.

In the case of unbranded calves not running at foot, it is accepted that the lessee on whose land the calves are found is entitled to brand the calves with his brand. It is obvious that, unless neighbours are present at the muster, the mustering owner, if he be so disposed, has an opportunity of placing his brand on calves which are not his property. As before stated, it is the general custom to give this mutual notice but some instances have occurred where notice of this kind has not been given. It has, therefore, been suggested, and the suggestion is supported by the Stockowners’ Association of South Australia, that there should be a statutory duty to give notice before mustering. It is accordingly provided by clause 2 of the Bill that at least 14 days before mustering cattle on his land, a pastoral lessee or some person on his behalf is to give notice in writing of his intention to the lessee of every neighbouring lease or to the person in charge of that land. The clause is confined in its operation to land held upon pastoral lease which is situated to the north of the dog fence. Clause 3 makes a consequential amendment to section 141 of the Pastoral Act. I move the second reading.

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