**PYAP IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1979**

**Legislative Assembly, 8 November 1979, page 873**

Second reading

**The Hon. P. B. ARNOLD (Minister of Water Resources)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Pyap Irrigation Trust Act, 1923-1974. Read a first time.

The Hon. P. B. ARNOLD: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time.

Approval has been given to provide a $94 000 grant and a $40 000 loan to the Pyap Irrigation Trust to enable the replacement of existing open-earth channels with a closed pipe system of lands under the control of the trust. To make funds available, it is necessary, under the Public Finance Act, for the department or authority to which finance is to be made available to have in its special Act a section providing specific power to borrow or accept grants from the Treasurer.

At present no such power exists under the Pyap Irrigation Trust Act and, before the approved funds can be appropriated, it is necessary to amend the Act. The present Bill contains the necessary amendments. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts new provisions into the principal Act empowering the Treasurer to make grants or loans to the trust. The Treasurer may also guarantee loans obtained by the trust from other sources.

Mr. PAYNE (Mitchell): In supporting the Bill, I think there are two or three minor points I must make. First, there was some difficulty researching this Bill, because of the age of the legislation. It dates from 1923 and the volume in which that Act was printed is no longer stored in the House. It was necessary to make some effort in the library to ensure that the Bill before us was satisfactory. It is a moot point whether the new provisions ought to be placed in Part IV, or whether they ought to be placed in Part V, which is headed “General Purposes and Powers of the Trust”. I should have thought the ability to receive grants and loans and, in effect, to make them, might be covered under that heading. I am not begging the issue; I merely point that out.

One other small matter that I bring to the attention of the Minister is the fact that the Bill seems to have been incorrectly cited in being brought before the House. I point out that the Bill we are being asked to examine is to amend the Pyap Irrigation Trust Act, 1923-1974. In point of fact, the correct date is 1923-1978, because the Pyap Irrigation Trust Act was amended in 1978 by the Statutes Amendment (Irrigation Acts) Act, 1978, which was subsequently proclaimed. That Act refers to the new citation which should be used in presenting this Bill to the House. I sympathise with the Minister about this matter; it is a minor point, but it just shows that one’s officers, with the best intention, can, on occasion, overlook what are very minor matters. I uncovered that fact, because I took the trouble to research the original Bill to make sure that the amendments placed before us during the second reading stage were in order.

The Hon. P. B. ARNOLD (Minister of Water Resources): The Government appreciates the consideration given to this measure by the Opposition in allowing it to proceed in such a short time. This measure, if it passes all stages of this House, will enable rehabilitation work to . If this measure was delayed until the resumption of this session in the autumn it would mean that the capital works available to persons in this State, and involved with this measure, would be delayed for that additional period. Also, the overall rehabilitation work for the benefit of trust members would be delayed for that period as well. The Government appreciates the consideration given to this measure by the Opposition.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Arnold, Glazbrook, Hamilton, Payne, and Schmidt; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on 13 November.