**PRIMARY PRODUCERS’ DEBTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1937**

**Legislative Assembly, 2 November 1937, page 1366**

Second reading

**The Hon. R. L. BUTLER (Wooroora— Premier and Treasurer)—**Since the Primary Producers’ Debts Act, 1935, has been in force several applicants for debt adjustment have died before their debts were adjusted. In cases where the death occurred before March 31 last it was open to the executors or administrators or beneficiaries of the deceased applicant to make a fresh application for debt adjustment under the Act, and the debts of the deceased person’s estate could be adjusted pursuant to that application. The time for making new applications under the Act, however, has now expired and the position is, according to advice received from the Crown Solicitor, that if an applicant for debt adjustment dies his application lapses and the debts cannot be dealt with.

The Government has inquired into the merits of several cases where applicants have died before their debts were adjusted and has come to the conclusion that in view of these cases and of others which may possibly occur in the future there is a good case for asking Parliament to permit debt adjustment to be proceeded with notwithstanding the death of the applicant. The Bill is for this purpose. It will enable the Farmers’ Assistance Board to proceed with the adjustment of the debts of a deceased person if the executors, administrators, or beneficiaries of that person bona fide intend to continue primary producing operations on the land of the deceased applicant, and if, as a result of adjusting the deceased man’s debts, there would be a reasonable prospect that they could carry on operations without loss. I move the second reading.

Mr. LACEY secured the adjournment of the debate.