**WILD DOGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1953**

**Legislative Assembly, 12 August 1953, page 339**

Second reading

**The Hon. C. S. HINCKS (Minister of Lands)** moved—

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—That it is desir­able to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Wild Dogs Act, 1931-1951.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. C. S. HINCKS—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. The Wild Dogs Act provides a scheme under which rates are imposed on land in the pastoral areas for the purpose of securing the destruction of wild dogs. The rates are paid into a fund called the Wild Dogs Fund and are subsidized by the Treasurer up to an amount not exceeding £4,000 a year. The maximum rate which may be imposed is Is. per square mile of ratable land. The fund is applied by the Treasurer in payments for tails and scalps of wild dogs killed on lands which are ratable under the Act or on Crown lands within the pastoral areas. It is also provided by section 9 of the Act that advances may be made to the fund from the general revenue but the total amount so advanced at any time is not to exceed £2,000. The purpose of this provision is to provide moneys for the fund if at any time the amount in the fund is insufficient to meet current requirements. At times the demands on the fund for payments for tails and scalps have been in excess of the funds available to it and, in order that the fund should be in a position to meet claims which can be reasonably expected to be made, consideration has been given to increasing the maximum rate which may be imposed under the Act and to increasing the amount which may be advanced under section 9. The Stockowners’ Association of South Australia has been consulted in the matter and the association agrees with the proposals in the Bill.

Clause 2 increases the maximum rate which may be imposed under the Act from Is. to

1s. 6d. per square mile of ratable land. Each additional rate of 3d. per square mile produces approximately £2,000 so that, if the full increased rate proposed by the clause were imposed, additional revenue of £4,000 would be produced. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the Act to provide that the maximum amount which may be advanced by the Treasury to the fund at any time is to be increased from £2,000 to £4,000. The amounts dealt with by section 9 are, as previously stated, advances only and are required to be repaid from time to time from the fund as occasion offers. The Bill does not make any alteration in the amount of the Government subsidy to the fund which is provided to be paid by section 8 and which is on a pound for pound basis not exceeding £4,000 in any calendar year.

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