**IRRIGATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1981**

**Legislative Assembly, 5 August 1981, page 293**

Second reading

**The Hon. P. B. ARNOLD (Minister of Irrigation)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Irrigation Act, 1930-1981. Read a first time.

The Hon. P. B. ARNOLD: I move: That this Bill be now read a second time. I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in Hansard without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

The amendments made by this Bill will facilitate changes proposed to the method of charging the lessees of nonratable land in irrigation areas for water supplied to them. In the past, individual agreements have been made with each lessee for water supplied. This is unnecessarily cumbersome and time consuming, especially since it requires the making of a new agreement with each new lessee of the land concerned when the land changes hands. It is proposed that the Minister will, in future, simply charge lessees for water used under the proposed new section 78. The new provision will also allow the Minister to charge lessees of ratable land that is not connected to a town supply for water supplied for domestic use. In the past, water has been supplied for this purpose under agreements that required renewal on each change of ownership. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 replaces subsection (3) of section 75 of the principal Act. The new provision requires notice to be given to ratepayers before the rates become due, and is in similar terms to the new section 78 (4) . Clause 4 makes a consequential change to section 77 of the principal Act. Clause 5 replaces section 78 of the principal Act with two new sections. New section 78 is an expanded provision that will allow the Minister to fix charges for water supplied to land referred to in the section. Subsection (2) allows for variation in the charges that are made for the supply of water to different land. Subsections (3) and (4) provide for liability for and recovery of charges, and subsection (5) provides that unpaid charges will be a charge on the land and will carry interest at the same rate as that of unpaid rates. Section 78a empowers the Minister to remit interest on rates and charges in cases of hardship.

Mr KENEALLY secured the adjournment of the debate.