BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1931

**Legislative Council, 19 November 1931, page 2702**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE (Hon. S.R. Whitford—Central No. 1)—**The Bill that was before the Council earlier this session provided for fire control officers domiciled in local government areas, but we overlooked that it is essential to appoint officers in areas not controlled by local governing bodies. Because of the luxuriant growth fires may start in those areas, and we want the same control outside as inside local government areas. The Draftsman’s report reads:—

Section 24 of the Bush Fires Act, 1913, provides for the appointment of fire control officers who, on the outbreak of a bush fire, may take charge of fire-fighting operations and exercise various powers for preventing the spread of the bush fire. The power to appoint these officers is, at present, confined to municipal and district councils, and the authority of the officers appointed does not extend beyond the district of the council by which they are appointed. It therefore follows that no officers may be appointed for parts of the State outside local government areas, although there is grave danger of fire occurring in such parts and spreading considerably. The Bill therefore provides that the Minister may appoint fire control officers for any part of the State outside a municipality or district council district, and that such officers shall have and may exercise within such part all the powers of an officer under the Act.

I move the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2—“Fire Controllers outside local government areas.”*’*

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE—The Council was under the mistaken impression, that the Commissioner of Crown Lands controlled this Bill, whereas the Minister of Agriculture is responsible. It is desired to amend the clause accordingly. I move (to strike out “Commissioner of Crown Lands” and insert “Minister of Agriculture.”

Amendment carried; clause as amended and title passed. Bill read a third time and passed.