RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1972

House of Assembly, 10 October 1972, page 1880

Second reading

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act, 1936-1971. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The effect of this short Bill will be to make considerable additional funds available to the Renmark Irrigation Trust. The firm proposals for these additional funds were negotiated between officers of the trust and officers of the Government and I am happy to inform members that the Chairman of the trust has advised the responsible Minister of the acceptance by the trust of the Government’s realistic offer of grant and Loan funds. This Bill is introduced to ratify the agreement reached with the trust, since Parliamentary approval must be obtained for the necessary expenditure.

To consider the Bill in some detail: clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 123b of the principal Act, which at present provides for a Government grant of up to $1,000,000 for the rehabilitation of the irrigation works of the trust and the provision of additional drainage within the Renmark Irrigation District. However, at present every dollar of this grant must be matched by a dollar of expenditure on these matters by the trust. The proposed amendment has two objects: first, to lift the upper limit of the total grant by $800,000 to $1,800,000; and secondly, to remove the matching expenditure requirement.

Clause 4 inserts three new sections in the principal Act. Section 123ba provides for additional financial assistance by way of a loan of up to $1,450,000 for the purposes mentioned in connection with section 123b. The repayment of this loan is to be spread over 40 years and the loan is to bear interest at 5 per cent. Section 123bb provides additional assistance by way of loan for the purposes of establishing a domestic water supply in the area. In this case the maximum amount of loan is fixed at $313,000, and again the repayments are to be spread over 40 years. Section 123bc is a formal appropriating provision. Clause 5 makes an amendment to the principal Act consequential on the amendments proposed. Thus the total additional assistance provided by this measure is about $2,563,000 and will be available at the rate of about $500,000 a year. This Bill is a hybrid Bill and will, in the ordinary course of events, be referred to a Select Committee of this House.

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): I support the Bill. A Select Committee is to be set up and is required to report before this measure can be proceeded with. For these reasons, although I have not studied the Bill in depth at this stage, I support it.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. J. D. Corcoran, Messrs. Curren, Eastick, Harrison and Wardle; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on October 31