**SHEARERS ACCOMMODATION ACT REPEAL BILL 1999**

**Legislative Assembly, 10 February 1999, pages 663-4**

Second reading

**The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE (Minister for Government Enterprises)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to repeal the Shearers Accommodation Act 1975. Read a first time.

The Hon. M.H. ARMITAGE: 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.

Under the Competition Principles Agreement of April 1995, the Government is committed to review and, where appropriate, reform legislation which restricts competition.

During the early stages of the process, the Shearers Accommodation Act 1975, was identified as legislation which had the potential to restrict competition. In addition, the Act had been rendered redundant with the passage of more relevant legislation.

It has been a Government objective for some time to ensure that legislation appropriately addresses the needs of persons in occupations where accommodation, mess facilities, toilet facilities and such issues take on a particular meaning in the workplace and areas associated with it. This applies to a wide range of occupations, including shearers.

The Shearers Accommodation Regulations, 1976 were revoked by the Subordinate Legislation Act in August 1996. In 1997, following a period of development in concert with industry, Workcover issued new ‘Guidelines for Workplace Amenities and Accommodation’ under the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations. The Guidelines support the regulations by providing practical guidance for the provision of reasonable access for all employees to workplace amenities and, where necessary, accommodation.

Since 1995, extensive consultation on the development of the guidelines has occurred with the National Farmers Federation (SA Division), the Australian Workers Union, the Shearing Contractors Federation and Workcover. Consultations took place before and after the repeal of the regulations under the Shearers Accommodation Act 1975, recognising that the Act itself would be repealed after the Workcover Guidelines were introduced.

The provisions of the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986 and Regulations, supported by the Guidelines for Workplace Amenities and Accommodation, mean that the Shearers Accommodation Act 1975 is no longer necessary or appropriate.

I commend the Bill to honourable members.

Explanation of Clauses

*Clause 1: Short title This clause is formal.*

*Clause 2: Commencement*

This clause provides for commencement of the measure.

*Clause 3: Repeal*

This clause repeals the Shearers Accommodation Act 1975.

Ms HURLEY secured the adjournment of the debate.