UNDERGROUND WATERS PRESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1975

House of Assembly, 19 February 1975, page 2445

Second reading

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Underground Waters Preservation Act, 1969, as amended. Read a first time.

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

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

The need for this short Bill arises from a decision that the use of underground water should be restricted in the hundreds of Marcollat, Parsons and Glen Roy, often identified as the “Padthaway” area of the South-East. The form of restriction imposed is to limit the draw-off of underground water to an amount not greater than the amount required to irrigate the acreage of crops irrigated in the 1972-73 season. However, when an appropriate draft notice of restriction for issue under section 17 of the principal Act was submitted to the Government’s legal advisers they indicated, quite properly, that to comply with the terms of section 17 (2) (b) of the Underground Waters Preservation Act it would be necessary also to direct the installation of meters to record the amount of water from wells. In the Government’s view the restrictions envisaged are quite effective of themselves and the imposition of the requirement on the landholders that they install meters is in the circumstances unnecessary. Accordingly, the amendment proposed by clause 2 of the Bill, which amends section 17 of the principal Act, makes clear that the requirement to install meters need not necessarily be made when a landholder is required to limit or restrict the draw-off of water from underground sources.

Mr. RODDA secured the adjournment of the debate.