**DEER KEEPERS BILL 1987**

**Legislative Assembly, 31 March 1987, page 3620**

Second reading

**The Hon. M.K. MAYES (Minister of Agriculture)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to establish a compensation fund and to provide for the payment of compensation from the fund for the destruction of diseased deer, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. M.K. MAYES: 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

Bovine tuberculosis infection, which is a communicable disease to humans, was detected in three deer herds during 1986. The prevalence of disease was almost 100 per cent.

It was the first time that tuberculosis has been diagnosed in deer in Australia. Diagnostic testing is now required in other herds in the State to establish whether further infection exists in this species. Such testing is necessary to ascertain any risk of spread of disease from deer to cattle which could jeopardise the bovine tuberculosis campaign, and to establish the disease status of the farmed deer population, in order to secure the industry’s future good reputation.

The Bill provides a legislative framework under which the disease status of South Australia’s deer farming industry may be adequately assessed, initially with respect to bovine tuberculosis. It establishes an industry funded compensation fund to compensate owners when their stock are destroyed because of disease or suspicion of disease.

It also establishes an advisory committee of industry and Government members to recommend to the Minister the uses (other than for compensation) to which any excess compensation funds collected may be put. The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal.

Clause 3 is an interpretation provision. For the purposes of the Bill the Inspector and Chief Inspector are the persons holding those offices under the Stock Diseases Act 1934.

Clause 4 provides for the annual registration of deer farms. The registration fee will be fixed by, or calculated in accordance with, the regulations.

Clause 5 creates offences. It is an offence to keep deer other than at a registered deer farm; to keep deer in contravention of a condition of registration of the deer farm; or to take deer from a registered deer farm unless the deer are tagged or marked in a manner approved by the Chief Inspector.

Clause 6 establishes a compensation fund into which all registration fees will be paid.

Clause 7 confers a right to compensation on the owner of any deer destroyed under the Stock Diseases Act 1934, as a result of a prescribed disease after 1 August 1986. The amount of compensation will be calculated in accordance with the regulations.

Clause 8 provides that, where, in the Minister’s opinion, the amount standing to the credit of the fund on 30 June in any year is sufficient to meet any claims likely to be made on the fund in the ensuing 12 months, the Minister may direct that the amount of the excess be allocated to such programs for the benefit of the deer industry in the State as the Minister thinks fit.

Clause 9 establishes the Deer Compensation Fund Advisory Committee. The Committee is to be comprised of five persons; the Chief Inspector, three persons who represent the interests of the deer industry, and one person holding a position in the Department of Agriculture.

Clause 10 sets out the functions of the committee. They are to advise the Minister on the management of the fund, to recommend the manner in which allocations are to be made under clause 8 and to report to the Minister on matters referred for advice.

Clause 11 gives inspectors powers designed to enable enforcement of the measure. Clause 12 consititutes offences under the measure, summary offence.

Clause 13 gives the Governor regulation making power. The regulations may provide for exemptions from the provisions of the measures.

Mr GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.