PASTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1966

House of Assembly, 10 November 1966, page 2957

Second reading

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Pastoral Act, 1936- 1960. Read a first time.

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

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

This short Bill provides for an amendment to section 41 of the Pastoral Act which now provides that leases for pastoral purposes of land not south or east of the Murray River must be for a term of 42 years. The amendment will provide that where any of such land is, in the opinion of the board, likely to be required for intense cultivation, public works, a site for a town or cemetery, mining rights, park lands, pastoral research or reserves, or that the land is inadequate for a living area, a lease for a lesser term may be granted upon conditions to be determined by the Minister. The immediate problem arises out of dealings with the residue of lands resumed in connection with the Chowilla dam project. It has become apparent that some modification of the type of lease which may be granted would facilitate the settlement of present claims and permit the occupation and development of the remaining land to proceed without interruption.

The amendment would also enable leases to be issued over certain lands in the pastoral area of the State which are now let on annual licences and for which no other form of tenure is available under the principal Act. Yearly tenancies are unsatisfactory both to the occupier and the interests of the State. The amendment will have the effect of permitting the present occupiers to obtain a lease issued under the provisions of the Pastoral Act, rather than an annual licence or miscellaneous lease. Obviously, it is better for lands within the pastoral area to be let under the Pastoral Act. This will provide a greater degree of security for the occupier, and simplify administrative procedure within the department.

Mr. QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.