



Speech by

CHRISTINE SCOTT

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

Hansard 18 September 2002

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT (Charters Towers—ALP) (5.43 p.m.): The Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 amends a range of legislation within the Primary Industries portfolio, and that portfolio is very important to the people of my region. Coming from such a large regional seat with some 33 communities, primary industries is very important to us indeed. While the majority of amendments are very minor, it is important that the legislation be fully effective. The guiding principle of omnibus-type legislation of this kind is that the content should avoid dealing with substantive policy matters, which should be presented as individual amendments for the attention of parliament. Let me address some of the acts which this bill proposes to amend.

The first act is the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. The opportunity is being taken to make a few minor amendments to the act. These will provide for clarity and interpretation and ensure the effective operation of the act. There is a need for a consequential amendment in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 which currently makes it unworkable for police officers to seize animals to prevent imminent risk of injury, death, et cetera. This will be achieved by substituting for an incorrect word 'and', the word 'or'. The amendment will enable more effective seizure of animals whose welfare is at risk by police acting as inspectors under the animal care legislation. In our remote, regional and rural areas police often do have to act as inspectors because we do not see the RSPCA in Muttaborra every day. I take this opportunity to commend them and all the other emergency services personnel for the good work they do every day to keep us all safe. These amendments seek to ensure that the act operates as initially intended. There is no new policy direction in these amendments.

The second act is the Food Production (Safety) Act 2000. The main amendment is to allow existing accreditations or licences under existing meat and dairy legislation to roll over for the remaining term into the proposed new meat and dairy food safety schemes. Further amendments extend the expiry date for the existing meat and dairy acts to ensure that they will not be terminated until the new food safety schemes are in place. This is currently expected to be in around January 2003. Both amendments are administrative in nature and no adverse community reaction is expected.

The third is the Grain Industry (Restructuring) Act 1991. The amendment will allow the Minister for Primary Industries to arrange a public review of options for export marketing of Queensland wheat currently subject to national export single desk selling powers under the Commonwealth's Wheat Marketing Act 1989 when a report required by the Commonwealth act is presented. Such a review provision is strongly supported by Queensland's grain industry bodies.

The fourth group is the Dairy Industry Act 1993 and the Meat Industry Act 1993. The amendments provide that either the state or Safe Food Production Queensland in the matter of dairy food safety matters becomes responsible for legal actions in progress or undertaken against the Queensland Dairy Authority and the Queensland Abattoir Corporation, both of which are in the process of winding up. I commend the bill to the House.