

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2001, CORRECTION*Statement by Attorney General*

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle - Attorney General) [2.42 pm]: My second reading speech on the Electoral Amendment Bill 2001, which was circulated to members yesterday, contained an error. For convenience, I refer to page 9 of the uncorrected proof of *Hansard* of Wednesday, 1 August 2001. Paragraph 2, line 7 on page 9 states that there will be -

one notional elector for every 50 square kilometres of that district.

The reference to 50 square kilometres should be replaced with 200 square kilometres, which is consistent with both the explanatory memorandum and the Bill. I regret any inconvenience this error has caused to members.

AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY CHEMICALS (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) AMENDMENT BILL 2001*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr McGinty (Attorney General), read a first time.

Second Reading

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle - Attorney General) [2.44 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill will give constitutional certainty to this registration scheme and complement the proposed commonwealth Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2001 that will authorise the conferral of state powers on commonwealth authorities and officers. To achieve this, the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2001 has two principal objects. Firstly, the Bill again confers powers on commonwealth authorities and officers to carry out functions under the scheme. That is necessary where the previous conferral by state legislation was not expressly authorised by commonwealth legislation. These provisions will have an effect on the national registration authority, the commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and the commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Secondly, the Bill also confers powers on and validates previous actions of commonwealth inspectors and analysts where those actions were carried out without the requisite statutory power.

The Bill will be proclaimed to commence after the commencement of the commonwealth Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2001. This commonwealth Bill was introduced into the Senate on 3 April this year. The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2001 will continue to give certainty to the effective operation of this national registration scheme.

The Bill will also amend the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995 to deal with issues that have arisen as a result of the High Court's decision in the *Wakim* case. *Wakim* held that state legislation cannot give the Federal Court jurisdiction to determine matters arising under state law. Part 6 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995, which was enacted prior to *Wakim*, confers state jurisdiction on the Federal Court. The Bill proposes to repeal part 6. Similar amendments have already been enacted in other States.

In conclusion, I indicate to members the historic significance of the package of corporations legislation, which includes the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2001. This legislation will give Australians a national Corporations Law. That will benefit all Western Australians. It is important that this Parliament enact this package of Western Australian legislation to facilitate commonwealth legislation that commenced on 15 July 2001. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bradshaw.

RAILWAY (NARNGULU TO GERALDTON) BILL 2001*Second Reading*

Resumed from 27 June.

MR SWEETMAN (Ningaloo) [2.47 pm]: The Opposition supports this legislation and would go so far as to congratulate the Government for pushing ahead with this project. It will obviously happen in the foreseeable future. Both the project and the legislation make sense. It makes sense to develop this important transport corridor to put both rail and road together, which will make the port of Geraldton more accessible and take heavy traffic off some of the major arterial roads that run in and out of Geraldton. At the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure's road train summit in Geraldton, I sat at a table with a lady representing a Geraldton P&C association. It was clear that she was at the summit to make a contribution on behalf of parents with school children, whose concern about heavy vehicles on Geraldton roads could almost be classified as paranoia. It is unfortunate that the highway is now where it is. Geraldton has expanded greatly over the past 40 to 50 years and the town has developed either side of the North West Coastal Highway for approximately 12 kilometres. That has created some real difficulties. Although that road will remain and will still carry a significant amount of heavy traffic, some of the burden will be eased by this access road that will run direct from Narngulu to the port.