

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION**

*Forty-fifth Report — “Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2019” — Tabling*

**HON DR SALLY TALBOT (South West)** [1.05 pm]: I am directed to present the forty-fifth report of the Standing Committee on Legislation, titled “Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2019”.

[See paper [4222](#).]

**Hon Dr SALLY TALBOT:** The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the Standing Committee on Legislation’s findings and recommendations in relation to the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2019, which proposes to amend the Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988. Currently, broadacre cropping and grazing industries are not able to establish producers committees under the act because they are specifically excluded from the act’s definition of the term “agricultural industry”. “Broadacre cropping and grazing industries” is not defined in the principal act, but “broadacre” has been defined elsewhere as farms or industries engaged in the production of grains, oilseeds and other crops, or the grazing of livestock for meat or wool, on a large scale

Clause 4(2) of the bill proposes to delete the exclusion of broadacre industries so that they will have the same opportunity as any other agricultural industry to be prescribed as an “agricultural industry” under the act and therefore be able to utilise the act. A producers committee formed under the act exists to provide the producers of a particular type of agricultural produce with certain services, such as advertising and promoting the produce. These producers must pay a charge to cover the committee’s costs of providing those services. It is this charge that has led to most of the opposition to clause 4(2), and the bill. Some broadacre producers oppose being required to pay a charge, arguing, amongst other things, that any such charge would duplicate other levies that they already pay.

The committee has considered the merits of increasing the scope of the act to include broadacre industries. In doing so, the committee has addressed each of the main concerns about the bill and sought to dispel some misconceptions about how the act will operate, if and when the bill is enacted. The committee has also discussed selected clauses that, for example, propose to delegate legislative power to the executive government; introduce the concept of weighted voting; and remove the common law privilege against self-incrimination. Subject to satisfactory explanations being provided in relation to the recommendations made, the committee recommends that the bill be passed. I commend the report to the house.