

**FISHERIES ADJUSTMENT SCHEMES AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Norman Moore (Minister for Fisheries)**, and read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Fisheries)** [10.09 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill amends the Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act 1987, otherwise known as the FAS act. The FAS act allows commercial fishing authorisations and entitlements to be withdrawn from a fishery with appropriate compensation provided for affected licensed fishers. The FAS act has been a critical and highly successful tool in restructuring the fishing industry to be more economically viable and for reallocating resource use in order to improve sustainability and reduce conflict between competing users of aquatic resources. Competing uses that affect commercial fishing rights may include reallocation for recreational fishing use, the establishment of “no fishing” areas, and the allocation of areas of fishing ground for other purposes including oil and gas production, and harbour development.

The Fisheries Adjustment Schemes Act allows both voluntary and compulsory schemes to be established. The amendments contained in this bill will improve the scope and administration of the FAS act by providing for other entitlements under an authorisation—in addition to boats, nets and pots—to be reduced by a fisheries adjustment scheme; enabling the Department of Fisheries to set fees that properly take into account the cost to the government of establishing and administering industry-funded fisheries adjustment schemes; providing for a fisheries adjustment scheme to buy out all of the entitlements in a fishery, if that is the objective of the scheme; and enabling a voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme to be established in which only some authorisation holders in the fishery are prepared to participate in the scheme and pay the associated fee. Such a scheme would only be established on the recommendation of a committee of management and with the agreement of affected licensees. It also provides for different fees to be payable by different authorisation holders in relation to voluntary fisheries adjustment schemes and provides for a fisheries adjustment scheme committee of management to use modern forms of communication, such as emails, faxes and other similar means, when dealing with resolutions out of session. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.