

**GRAIN MARKETING REPEAL BILL 2010**

*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Robyn McSweeney (Minister for Child Protection)**, read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**HON ROBYN McSWEENEY (South West — Minister for Child Protection)** [10.04 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

In March 2009, the Minister for Agriculture and Food announced the government's intention to repeal the Grain Marketing Act 2002 following a review of the act by the Economic Regulation Authority and extensive industry consultation. This bill fulfils this intention. The Grain Marketing Act 2002 established the Grain Licensing Authority to administer a licensing system for the export of the prescribed grains, barley, lupins and canola. During the life of the act, the Grain Licensing Authority considered 166 licence applications to export 10.1 million tonnes of barley, lupins or canola and issued 127 licences for 6.2 million tonnes of those grains. In line with the recommendation of the Economic Regulation Authority, the bulk export of grain was effectively deregulated prior to harvest in October 2009 by amendment of the Grain Marketing Regulations 2002 to "de-prescribe" the grains. The regulations also dealt with the calculation of rebates due on licence applications.

The Grain Marketing Act 2002 has served Western Australia well, providing the state with a system of grain licensing for the transition from the era of strict single-desk marketing to full deregulation. The operations of the Grain Licensing Authority have been wound up by the Department of Agriculture and Food, which provided executive support to the authority. All that remains to complete the deregulation is the formal removal of the act from the statute book.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.