

VETERINARY SURGEONS AMENDMENT BILL 2009

Second Reading

Resumed from 7 May.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Preston) [4.20 pm]: I rise to speak very briefly in support of the Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill. Although it is only a small amendment bill, it certainly lines us up with the rest of Australia. I think that is very important. This will allow the regulations to specify only courses accredited by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council—and that really says it all. I am sure the Minister for Agriculture and Food has had some good advice from his back room on this as well, with some of his advisers having a background in that area.

However, I do have one small reservation. Looking at today's budget, I do not think there will be many jobs left for vets in the future because of the huge cuts contained in the budget. That is another story that will be debated later. Back to the bill itself, I commend the bill to the house.

MR D.T. REDMAN (Blackwood-Stirling — Minister for Agriculture and Food) [4.21 pm] — in reply: I thank the member for Collie-Preston for his comments; albeit they were very brief. When we have got something like this, which is a very short amendment to fix up something that needs to be fixed up, it probably does not deserve much more than that—we just need to get on with business.

As the member highlighted, this bill covers a circumstance in which it is quite possible for someone to complete a vet course in the eastern states that is not accredited by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council. However, he is not able to register as a vet in the eastern states because of arrangements that are in place in other states, and indeed New Zealand, but he can come to Western Australia under our present law and register. Under mutual arrangements between the states, a person can go back to the eastern states and practise as a vet but, if he is registered in one of the other states, he would not be able to do so if that was the first place he registered. Clearly, this short amendment in the bill fixes up those arrangements such that when it is put in place and we have the necessary regulations, we will only be supporting the registration of vets who meet the standards of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, which is appropriate to maintain integrity within our vet community.

Clearly, the member made some very early comments on the budget. I am sure that the member, after having done some research, will find out that a lift of four per cent in the agriculture budget to \$164 million on the last budget from the previous government is a step forward. I am sure he will have a chance to ask questions. I believe the budget clearly shows strong support for agriculture and food in Western Australia.

Mr M.P. Murray interjected.

Mr D.T. REDMAN: The member will have his opportunity soon.

I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr D.T. Redman (Minister for Agriculture and Food)**, and passed.

House adjourned at 4.24 pm
