

60° VICTORIÆ, 1896.

A BILL

To constitute a Board of Advice in matters relating to the Stock and Pastures of the Colony, and to define the powers and duties of the said Board.

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. There shall be a board of nine persons, hereinafter called "the council," to advise the Minister on matters concerning the administration of the law relating to the stock and pastures of the Colony. Constitution of board of advice to be elected by delegates from stock and pastures boards.

The members of the council shall be elected under the provisions of this Act by delegates from the boards (hereinafter called "stock and pastures boards") constituted under the Pastures and Stock Protection Act as amended by the Pastures and Stock Protection Act Amendment Act of 1881, and shall hold office until a new council is elected, but shall be eligible for re-election.

2. There shall be one delegate from each of the stock and pasture boards who shall be chosen by a majority of the members of each board present at a meeting. Election of delegates.

The first elections of delegates shall take place on days to be fixed by the Minister in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, and subsequent elections shall take place every third year after the said year, on days to be fixed as aforesaid. The places of the elections shall be the places fixed for the election of the stock and pastures boards respectively.

If no person be elected a delegate by a stock and pasture board, the Governor may appoint a delegate by notice in the *Gazette*.

3. (1) The delegates from the stock and pasture boards of the sheep districts within each of the three land divisions into which the Colony is then divided in pursuance of the Crown Lands Acts (hereinafter referred to as the "delegates from each land division") shall elect three members of the council. Election of council by delegates.

Where a sheep district is situate within more than one land division, it shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to be within that land division in which the place for the election of the stock and pastures board is situate.

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(II) The first election shall take place on some day to be fixed by the Minister in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, and subsequent elections shall take place every third year after the said year on days to be fixed as aforesaid.

Elections shall be held in Sydney at some place appointed by the Minister. Voting shall be in person, or by letter in the form prescribed by regulations, addressed to the person presiding at the election.

The chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, or in the absence of both any member of the council appointed by the Minister in that behalf, shall preside at the elections; but the Minister shall preside at the first election.

(III) If the delegates from any land division fail, within one week after the time appointed, to elect the three members of the council, the Minister may appoint so many members as the said delegates have failed to elect. Vacancies in the council may be filled by the appointment of the Minister.

4. Ordinary meetings of the council shall be held in Sydney at such times and places as it may determine, and failing such determination, at the times and places fixed by the Minister. Meetings of the council.

Special meetings of the council shall be held at the request of the Minister or of the chairman of the council, or of any five members. Special meetings may, with the consent of a majority of the members of the council, be held at places other than Sydney.

5. The council may elect its own chairman and vice-chairman, and may make by-laws, to be approved by the Minister, regulating its own procedure. Three members shall form a quorum. Chairman of council and quorum.

6. Each member of the council shall, from the moneys under the control of the council, receive a fee of twenty shillings for each day on which he attends a meeting of the council, and an allowance of sixpence per mile to defray the cost of travelling by rail or steamer, and of one shilling per mile to defray the cost of travelling by land by any other conveyance from his home to the place of meeting. Fees and allowances of members of council.

7. The expenses of the council, in carrying out the provisions of this Act, shall be estimated annually and apportioned by the council among the several stock and pasture boards, and shall be paid by them to the council in proportion to the number of large stock and sheep within the sheep district administered by each stock and pastures board, one head of large stock being calculated as equivalent to six sheep. Expenses of council and of delegates to be paid by the boards.

The travelling expenses and allowances of each delegate shall be fixed and paid by the stock and pastures board electing the delegate.

The expenses of the council and the expenses and allowances of every delegate shall be paid by each stock and pastures board out of the moneys at credit of the noxious animals destruction account of such board established by the Pastures and Stock Act Amendment Act of 1881.

8. The council shall publish each year in the *Gazette* a statement of its receipts and expenditure under this Act. Council to publish its receipts and expenditure.

9. The Governor may make regulations as to the election of delegates by stock and pasture boards, and as to the election by the delegates of the members of the council, and generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act. Governor may make regulations.

Regulations, when published in the *Gazette*, shall have the force of law.

10. In this Act "Governor" means Governor with the advice of the Executive Council, and "Minister" means the Secretary for Mines and Agriculture, and includes any Minister of the Crown charged with the administration of this Act. Definition.

11. This Act may be cited as the "Stock and Pastures (Board of Advice) Act, 1896." Short title.