

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1910.

A BILL

To make further provision for the destruction of the water hyacinth; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the King'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. This Act may be cited as the "Water Hyacinth Act, 1910." Short title.

2. In this Act,—

"Area" means municipality or shire.

"Council" means council of an area.

"Land" includes land covered by water.

"Minister" means Minister for Agriculture.

"Water hyacinth" means *Pontederia (Eichhornia) crassipes*.

3. Every council shall destroy all plants of water hyacinth on unoccupied Crown lands in its area, and shall after such destruction keep such lands free from such plants. For that purpose the council,

Council to destroy water hyacinth on certain lands.

Water Hyacinth.

by its servants, agents, and contractors, may enter such lands, and any land adjoining thereto, and deposit and destroy thereon any such plants, doing no more damage than is unavoidable.

Any expense incurred by a council in carrying out the provisions of this section may be defrayed out of the general fund for its area.

4. (1) The Colonial Treasurer, on the recommendation of the Minister, shall, subject to this Act and the regulations thereunder, pay out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to a council—

Payment by Government of expenses incurred by council.

- (a) the cost to the council of destroying water hyacinth on unoccupied Crown lands forming the bed of any navigable water in its area: Provided that, after such cost has been so paid, no further payment shall be made to the council for the destruction of water hyacinth on such lands; and
- (b) one-half the cost to the council of destroying water hyacinth on other unoccupied Crown lands in its area, and keeping such lands free from water hyacinth.

(2) Such payment shall not be so made except on a certificate that the work has been performed to the satisfaction of an officer or person appointed in that behalf by the Minister.

(3) The Minister may refuse to make such recommendation if he is not satisfied that the council has taken steps under the Local Government Act, 1906, to acquire power thereunder to destroy water hyacinth on the land in its area not being unoccupied Crown lands, and has with due diligence exercised such power.

5. If a council, on being requested by the Minister to do any work which the council is by this Act directed to perform, fails to do such work within the time prescribed in such request, the Minister may cause such work to be done, and may recover from the council, as a Crown debt, any expenses so incurred.

Procedure on failure of council to carry out provisions of this Act.

6. The Governor may make regulations—

Regulations.

- (a) prescribing the method in which water hyacinth must be destroyed in order to enable a council to receive payment from the Treasury under this Act;
- (b) prescribing the duties of persons appointed to certify as to the work done by councils under this Act; and
- (c) for carrying out the provisions of this Act.