

STOCK AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Stock Act 1908.

Clause 2 makes special provision for the control of the outbreak of the disease known as scrapie which has occurred in parts of the South Island. The new provision is based on section 12 of the Stock Act 1908, as set out in section 4 of the Stock Amendment Act 1952; and scrapie is removed from the list of diseases to which the present section applies. In the definition of the term "infected stock" in subclause (1), and in subclause (3), the existing time limit of three months is removed, because the period of infection for scrapie is known to be much longer, and the definition is extended to include stock which has at any time been kept or depastured on any land on which diseased stock have been kept or depastured during the immediately preceding period of five years. *Subclause (5)* is new and gives power to destroy stock which have the disease or may be infected with it.

Clause 3 provides that every veterinary surgeon who becomes aware or suspects that any stock are diseased shall forthwith give notice thereof in writing to the Chief Inspector.

Right Hon. Mr Holyoake

STOCK AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title.
1. Short Title.

2. Declaration of infected area for scrapie.
3. Veterinary surgeons to give notice of diseased stock.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Stock Act 1908.

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Stock Amendment Act 1954, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Stock Act 1908 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

See Reprint of Statutes. Vol. I, p. 311

2. (1) The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after section twelve, the following section:

Declaration of infected area for scrapie.

“ 12A. (1) In this section—

“ ‘Disease’ means scrapie; and the meanings of the terms ‘diseased’ and ‘infected’ shall be modified accordingly:

“ ‘Infected stock’ means stock not actually diseased which forms, or which at any time has formed, part of a lot containing any diseased stock or part of a lot which has at any time been in contact with diseased stock, or which has at any time been kept or depastured on any land on which diseased stock have been kept or depastured during the immediately preceding period of five years.

“(2) Any Inspector who receives information that any stock kept or depastured on any land are suspected of being diseased or infected, or who has reasonable grounds to suspect that diseased or infected stock are kept or depastured on any land, shall forthwith proceed to that land and conduct such investigation, inquiry, inspection, or examination as he thinks fit to determine whether diseased or infected stock are or have been kept or depastured on that land. 5

“(3) If after due investigation, inquiry, inspection, or examination an Inspector finds that diseased or infected stock are kept or depastured on any land inspected or examined by himself or any other Inspector, he may, by writing under his hand, declare that land, together with such other neighbouring land (if any) as he may specify, to be an infected place or area. 10 15

“(4) Every such declaration shall, as regards any particular parcel of land, take effect on receipt by the occupier thereof of a notice in writing of the declaration given under the hand of an Inspector; and shall, while the declaration remains in force, continue to bind the land and all occupiers thereof notwithstanding any change in the occupancy or ownership thereof after notice as aforesaid has been given. 20

“(5) If an Inspector is satisfied that any stock are diseased or infected, he shall forthwith give notice to the owner of the stock that the stock are diseased or infected, and may require the owner to destroy the stock under the supervision of an Inspector, or may direct that the stock be disposed of in such manner as he thinks fit. If the owner fails to destroy or dispose of the stock as required or directed by the Inspector, the destruction or disposal may be carried out by an Inspector or by any person authorized by an Inspector at the expense of the owner; and the amount of the expense so incurred shall be recoverable with costs from the owner by any Inspector as a debt in any Court of competent jurisdiction. 25 30 35

“(6) The Inspector who makes any declaration under subsection *three* of this section shall forthwith notify the Chief Inspector of that declaration and the Chief Inspector shall cause notice of every such declaration to be published in the *Gazette* and in such newspapers circulating in the locality affected by the declaration as he thinks fit. 40 45

“ (7) Any declaration of an infected place or area under this section shall particularly describe the land or area intended to be affected by the declaration, and until it is released the land or area shall be deemed to be an
5 infected place or area from which no person shall remove any stock, fodder, fittings, or things without the written permission of an Inspector or otherwise than in accordance with such conditions as he thinks fit to impose.”

10 (2) Section twelve of the principal Act, as set out in section four of the Stock Amendment Act 1952, is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the word “ scrapie ”. 1952, No. 71

3. The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after section twenty-three, the following section:
15 “ 23A. Every veterinary surgeon registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1926 who becomes aware or suspects that any stock are diseased shall forthwith give notice in writing to the Chief Inspector of the existence or suspected existence of the disease.”
Veterinary surgeons to give notice of diseased stock.
See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 736