NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EMU LICENCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1993

NEW SOUTH WALES



EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Explanatory Note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament)

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 prohibits the taking, killing, possessing, buying and selling of any protected fauna (including emus) otherwise than under and in accordance with an appropriate licence granted under that Act. There is no single licence that is appropriate to authorise the breeding of emus or the dealing in emus and emu products.

The object of this Bill is to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 so as:

- (a) to provide for an emu licence under which the breeding of emus, the killing of emus reared or bred under such a licence and the dealing in emus and emu products can be authorised; and
- (b) to make consequential amendments to that Act to exempt certain activities connected with the breeding of emus, the killing of emus and the dealing in emus and emu products from the various provisions that would otherwise prohibit their conduct; and
- (c) to create a new offence of carrying on the business of an emu breeder otherwise than in accordance with an emu licence; and
- (d) to empower the making of regulations with respect to the keeping of records by persons engaged in the retail sale of emu products and with respect to the inspection of premises on which emus are housed or caged under an emu licence.

The Bill also amends the Poultry Processing Act 1969 so as to ensure that the provisions of that Act are construed as applying to emus.

Clause 1 specifies the short title of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides that the proposed Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Clause 3 is a formal provision that gives effect to the Schedule of amendments to the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Clause 4 makes the amendment to the Poultry Processing Act 1969 described above.

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

Emu licences

It is proposed to provide for the granting of a new form of licence (an "emu licence") that authorises a person to buy and sell emus, whole emu eggs or other emu products, to kill emus reared or bred under such a licence or otherwise to exercise or carry on the business of an emu breeder (Schedule 1 (9)—proposed section 125A).

Consequential amendments to section 5 (Definitions) insert definitions of "emu", "emu breeder" and "emu products". An emu breeder is defined to be a person who exercises or carries on the business of breeding emus (including the rearing of emu chicks lawfully taken in the wild) or dealing in live emus, whole emu eggs or other emu products. Emu products are defined to mean products (such as eggs, meat, skin, feathers, claws and oil) derived from emus or from the processing of emu carcases (Schedule 1 (1)).

Section 133 enables a licence to be issued subject to conditions and restrictions. Consequently, it will be possible for various forms of emu licence to be granted. Examples of the various forms of licence include a licence authorising the breeding of emus (but not the sale of emu products), a licence authorising the sale of emu products (but not the breeding of emus) and a licence authorising both the breeding of emus and the sale of emu products.

Existing offence of taking or killing protected fauna

Section 98 prohibits a person from taking or killing protected fauna. The section provides that a person proving that the act constituting such an offence was done under and in accordance with an appropriate licence is not to be convicted of the offence. Schedule 1 (2) amends the section so as to provide that an emu licence is an appropriate licence.

Existing offence of taking or killing fauna for sale

Section 103 prohibits a person from taking or killing fauna for the purpose of sale. The section provides that a person proving that the act constituting such an offence was done under and in accordance with an appropriate licence is not to be convicted of the offence. Schedule 1 (3) amends the section so as to provide that an emu licence is an appropriate licence.

Existing offence of carrying on the business of a fauna dealer without a fauna dealer's licence

Section 104 (1) prohibits a person from exercising or carrying on the business of a fauna dealer unless the person does so under and in accordance with a fauna dealer's licence or a skin dealer's licence (if the business forms part of the business of a skin

dealer). Schedule 1 (4) (a) amends section 104 (1) (by substitution) so as to extend the exception to all licences (including emu licences) under Division 2 of Part 9.

Section 104 (1A) excludes the retail sale of kangaroo meat from the prohibition contained in section 104 (1), but only if the meat was acquired from the holder of a fauna dealer's licence. Schedule 1 (4) (b) amends section 104 (1A) so as to extend the exception to all kangaroo meat lawfully acquired from the holder of a licence under Division 2 of Part 9. This amendment constitutes minor law revision consequent on an amendment effected by the Meat Industry (Game Meat) Amendment Act 1992.

Existing offence of carrying on the business of a skin dealer without a skin dealer's licence

Section 105 prohibits a person from exercising or carrying on the business of a skin dealer unless the person does so under and in accordance with a skin dealer's licence or a fauna dealer's licence (if the business forms part of the business of a fauna dealer). Schedule 1 (5) amends the section (by substitution) so as to extend the exception to all licences (including emu licences) under Division 2 of Part 9.

Proposed offence of carrying on the business of an emu breeder without an emu licence

It is proposed to prohibit any person from carrying on the business of an emu breeder unless the person does so under and in accordance with a licence under Division 2 of Part 9. It is further proposed to exclude from the prohibition a person who sells an emu product by retail, but only if the emu product was lawfully acquired from the holder of a licence (including an emu licence) under Division 2 of Part 9 or from the holder of a licence to sell emu products under the fauna protection legislation of another State or Territory (Schedule 1 (6)—proposed clause 105A).

Existing offence of importing or exporting protected fauna

Section 106 (1) prohibits the import into or the export from New South Wales of any protected fauna. Section 106 (2) excludes certain protected fauna from the prohibition. Schedule 1 (7) amends section 106 (2) so as to extend the exclusion to emu products.

Existing offence of possessing 20 or more birds without an aviary registration certificate or fauna dealer's licence

Section 108 prohibits the possession of 20 or more birds, being protected fauna, unless they are the subject of an aviary registration certificate or are possessed by a fauna dealer at the dealer's registered premises. Schedule 1 (8) amends the section so as to further exclude from the prohibition the possession of 20 or more emus by the holder of an emu licence.

Regulations with respect to the keeping of records and the furnishing of returns

Schedule 1 (10) (a) amends section 154 (Regulations) so as to enable regulations to be made for or with respect to the keeping of records, and the making of returns, by persons engaged in the retail sale of kangaroo meat or emu products and the inspection of such records by officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. To the extent that the amendment refers to the retail sale of kangaroo meat, it constitutes minor law revision consequent on an amendment effected by the Meat Industry (Game Meat) Amendment Act 1992.

Regulations with respect to the inspection of premises

Schedule 1 (10) (b) amends section 154 (Regulations) so as to enable regulations to be made for or with respect to the inspection of premises on which emus are housed or caged under an emu licence.

Power to inspect premises

Schedule 1 (11) amends section 164 (Powers of entry and seizure) so as to enable the Director of National Parks and Wildlife or a person authorised by the Director to enter premises for the purpose of inspecting any premises where emus are housed or caged under an emu licence.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EMU LICENCE) **AMENDMENT BILL 1993**

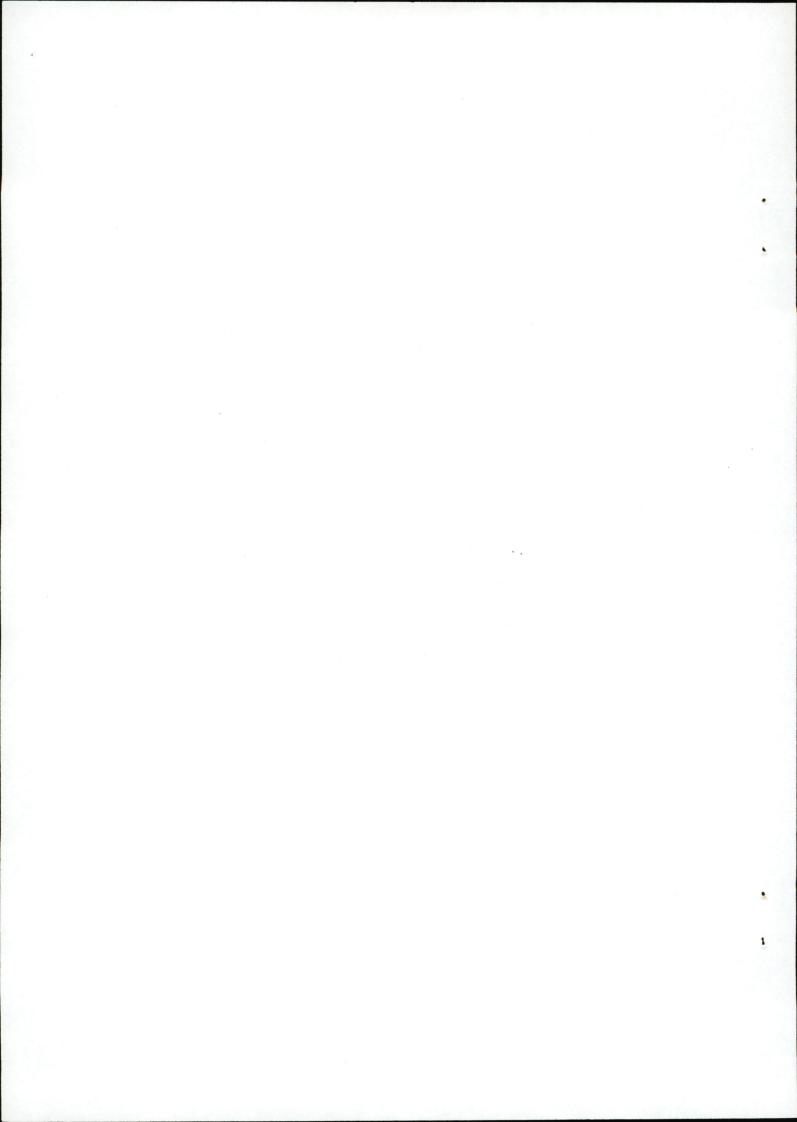
NEW SOUTH WALES



TABLE OF PROVISIONS

- Short title
 Commencement
 Amendment of National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 No. 80
 Amendment of Poultry Processing Act 1969 No. 45

SCHEDULE 1-AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974



NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EMU LICENCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1993

NEW SOUTH WALES



No. , 1993

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to provide for the licensing of emu breeding and other related activities; and for other purposes.

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the National Parks and Wildlife (Emu Licence) Amendment Act 1993.

5 Commencement

2. This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Amendment of National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 No. 80

3. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 is amended as set out in Schedule 1.

Amendment of Poultry Processing Act 1969 No. 45

4. Section 3 (1) of the Poultry Processing Act 1969 is amended by inserting in the definition of "poultry" after the word "bird", the words ", including an emu (that is, a bird of the species *Dromaius novaehollandiae*)".

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

(Sec. 3)

(1) Section 5 (Definitions):

20 In section 5 (1), insert in alphabetical order:

"emu" means any bird of the species Dromaius novaehollandiae;

"emu breeder" means a person who exercises or carries on the business of breeding emus (including the rearing of emu chicks lawfully taken in the wild) or dealing in live emus, whole emu eggs or other emu products;

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"emu products" means products (such as eggs, meat, skin, feathers, claws and oil) derived from emus or from the processing of emu carcases:

(2) Section 98 (Taking or killing protected fauna, other than endangered fauna):

> From section 98 (3) (a), omit "or a trapper's licence under section 123", insert instead ", a trapper's licence under section 123 or an emu licence under section 125A".

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(3) Section 103 (Taking or killing fauna for sale):

From section 103 (2), omit "or a trapper's licence under section 123", insert instead ", a trapper's licence under section 123 or an emu licence under section 125A".

(4) Section 104 (Fauna dealers):

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- (a) Omit section 104 (1), insert instead:
 - (1) A person must not:
 - (a) exercise or carry on; or
 - (b) advertise, notify or state that he or she exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on; or
 - (c) in any way hold himself or herself out to the public as ready to exercise or carry on,

the business of a fauna dealer, unless the person does so under and in accordance with the authority conferred by a licence under Division 2 of Part 9.

(b) From section 104 (1A), omit "acquired from the holder of a fauna dealer's licence under section 124", insert instead "lawfully acquired from the holder of a licence under Division 2 of Part 9".

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(5) Section 105:

Omit the section, insert instead:

Skin dealers

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105. A person must not:

- (a) exercise or carry on; or
- (b) advertise, notify or state that he or she exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on; or
- (c) in any way hold himself or herself out to the public as ready to exercise or carry on,

the business of a skin dealer, unless the person does so under and in accordance with the authority conferred by a licence under Division 2 of Part 9.

15 (6) Section 105A:

After section 105, insert:

Emu breeders

105A. (1) A person must not:

- (a) exercise or carry on; or
- (b) advertise, notify or state that he or she exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on; or
- (c) in any way hold himself or herself out to the public as ready to exercise or carry on,

the business of an emu breeder, unless the person does so under and in accordance with the authority conferred by a licence under Division 2 of Part 9.

- (2) A person is not to be convicted of an offence arising under subsection (1) in respect of the sale by retail of an emu product, but only if the product was lawfully acquired from:
 - (a) the holder of a licence under Division 2 of Part 9; or

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974—continued (b) a person who is authorised to sell emu products under the fauna protection legislation of another State or Territory. 5 (7) Section 106 (Importing or exporting protected fauna): In section 106 (2), after "this subsection", insert "or to any emu product". (8) Section 108 (Possessing 20 or more birds): At the end of the section, insert: 10 (c) that person is the holder of an emu licence under section 125A. (9) Section 125A: After section 125, insert: 15 Emu licence 125A. An authorised officer may issue a licence (in this Act referred to as an "emu licence"), authorising a person to do any one or more of the following: (a) to buy or sell live emus, whole emu eggs or other emu 20 products: (b) to kill emus reared or bred under and in accordance with the authority conferred by such a licence; (c) otherwise to exercise or carry on the business of an emu breeder. 25 (10) Section 154 (Regulations): (a) After section 154 (d), insert: (d1) the records to be kept and returns to be furnished by persons engaged in the sale by retail of meat from a game animal (within the meaning of the Meat Industry 30 Act 1978), as referred to in section 104 (1A), and the inspection of those records by officers of the Service;

- (d2) the records to be kept and returns to be furnished by persons engaged in the sale by retail of emu products, as referred to in section 105A (2), and the inspection of those records by officers of the Service;
- (b) In section 154 (i), after "120", insert "or 125A".
- (11) Section 164 (Powers of entry and seizure):

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From section 164 (1) (b) (ii), omit "general licence under section 120", insert instead "licence under section 120 or 125A".

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EMU LICENCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1993

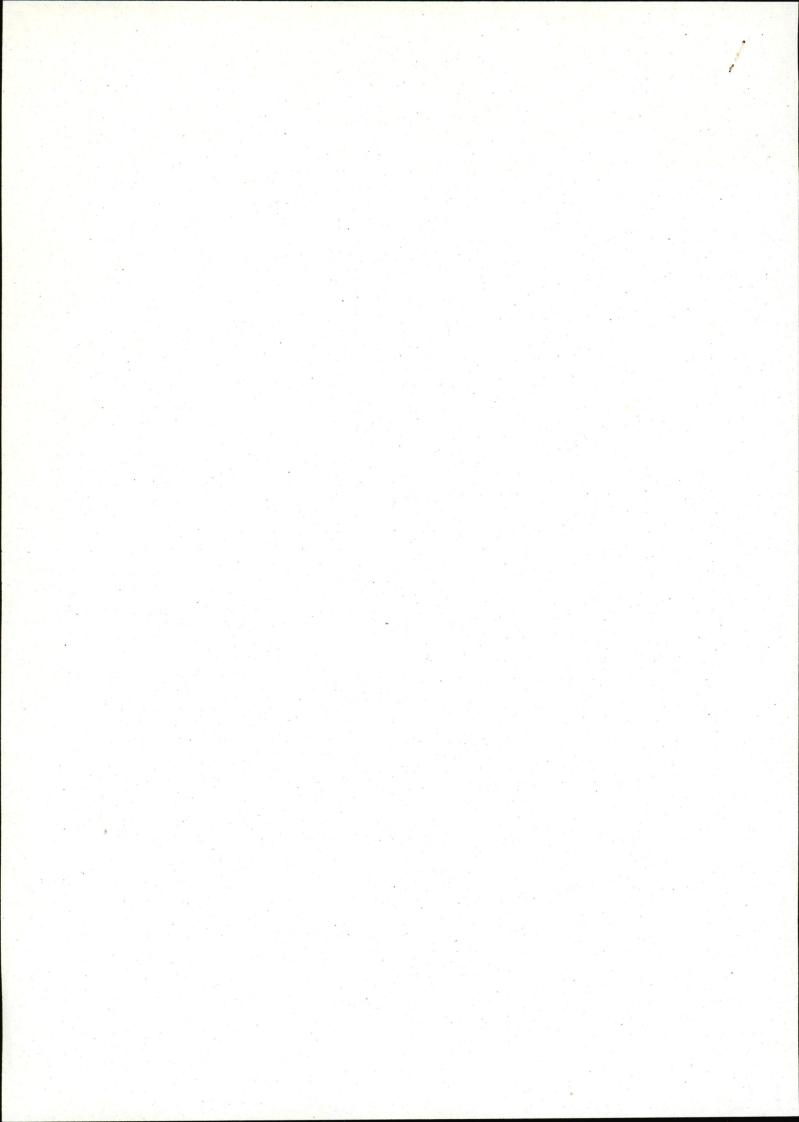
SECOND READING

MR. PRESIDENT,

I MOVE THAT THIS BILL BE NOW READ A SECOND TIME.

INTEREST IN EMU FARMING BEGAN IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN THE MID-1970'S. BY 1986 AN EMU FARM OPERATED BY THE NGANGGANAWILI ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY WAS REARING SOME 600 EMU CHICKS A YEAR. THE FOLLOWING YEAR EMU FARMING WAS RECOGNISED BY WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS BEING TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE AS A RURAL ENTERPRISE WITH PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPORT INDUSTRY FOR EMU PRODUCTS.

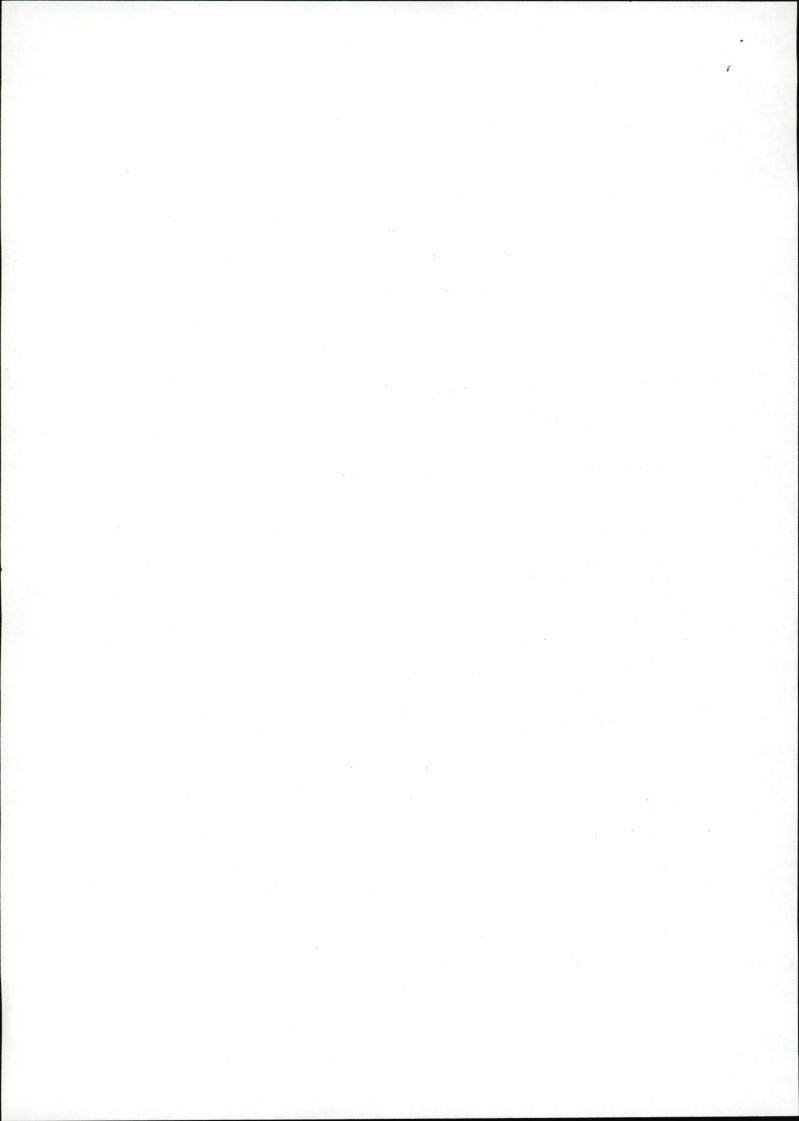
WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ITSELF ESTABLISHED AN EXPERIMENTAL EMU FARM IN 1988 AND COMMENCED WORK ON ESTABLISHING OPTIMAL HOUSING AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS FOR THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF EMUS. BY THE END OF 1988 17 EMU FARMS HAD BEEN LICENSED AND THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION HAD FORMED A GROUP CALLED EMU FARMERS OF AUSTRALIA, TO PURSUE THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS FOR EMU PRODUCTS.



THERE IS A GROWING INTERNATIONAL MARKET FOR EMU PRODUCTS INCLUDING MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, LEATHER, OIL FOR USE IN SKIN CARE PRODUCTS, MEDICATION AND COSMETICS, FEATHERS, CLAWS AND CARVED EGGS.

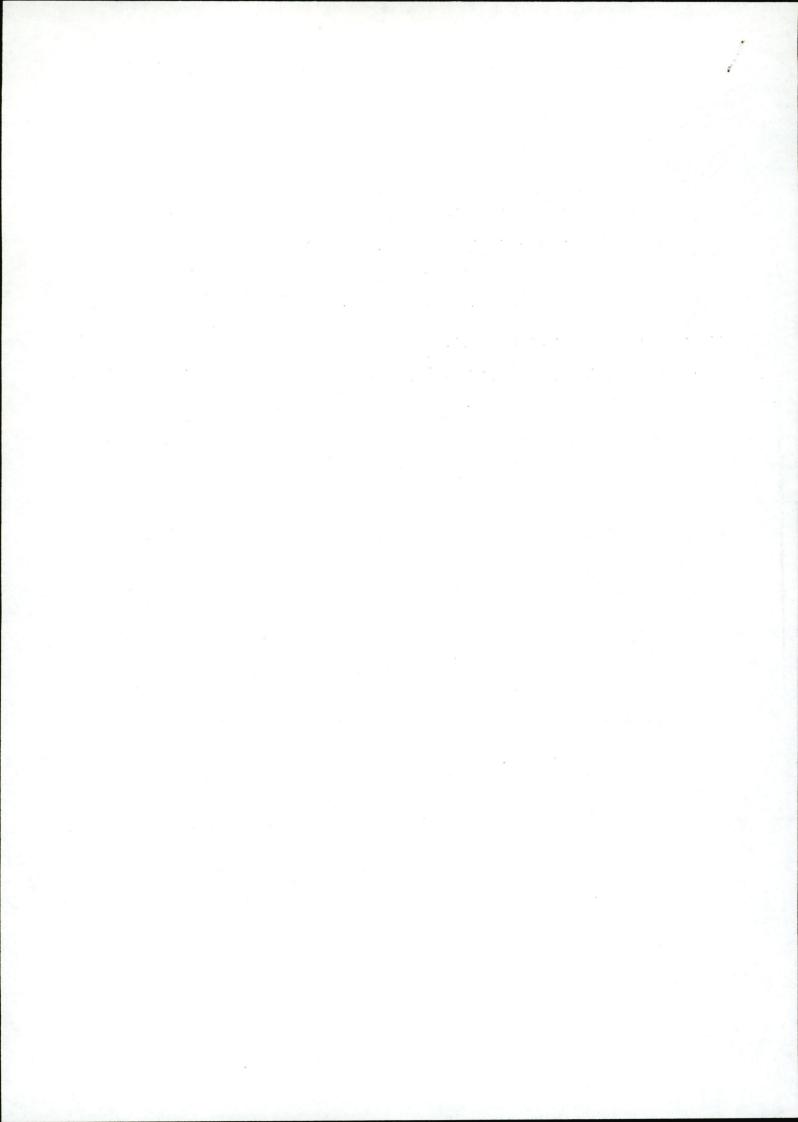
IN 1990 THE FORMER MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. TIM MOORE, M.P. AND THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, THE HON. IAN ARMSTRONG, M.P. ESTABLISHED AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF INTRODUCING EMU FARMING INTO NEW SOUTH WALES. OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND NEW SOUTH WALES AGRICULTURE VISITED WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO DISCUSS THE INDUSTRY WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS, A NUMBER OF EMU FARMERS AND THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FARMERS' FEDERATION. THE COMMITTEE REPORTED TO THE MINISTERS IN JULY, 1990 RECOMMENDING THAT STEPS, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT, BE INITIATED TO FACILITATE THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS NEW INDUSTRY INTO NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE EMU FARMING INDUSTRY WILL NOT HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF EMUS IN THE WILD.



WHEN THE INDUSTRY COMMENCED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA THAT STATE DEVELOPED HOUSING AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS AND LICENSING CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY QUEENSLAND AND TASMANIA AND WILL BE ADOPTED BY SOUTH AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE STABILITY OF THE INDUSTRY, THE PROTECTION OF THE MARKET AND THE PROTECTION OF WILD POPULATIONS OF EMUS THAT THERE BE CONSISTENT STANDARDS FOR EMU FARMING THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA.

LICENSING FEES WILL BE SET AT \$5,000 PER ANNUM SO THAT THE COST OF INTRODUCING THE EMU LICENSING SYSTEM IS BORNE BY THE INDUSTRY. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LICENSING SYSTEM WILL NOT DIVERT RESOURCES FROM ANY CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES OR THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. IF INTEREST IN THE NEW INDUSTRY IS EVEN GREATER THAN EXPECTED, ANY SURPLUS OF FUNDS FROM LICENSING FEES OVER ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES, WILL BE USED FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO BENEFIT THE EMU FARMING INDUSTRY.

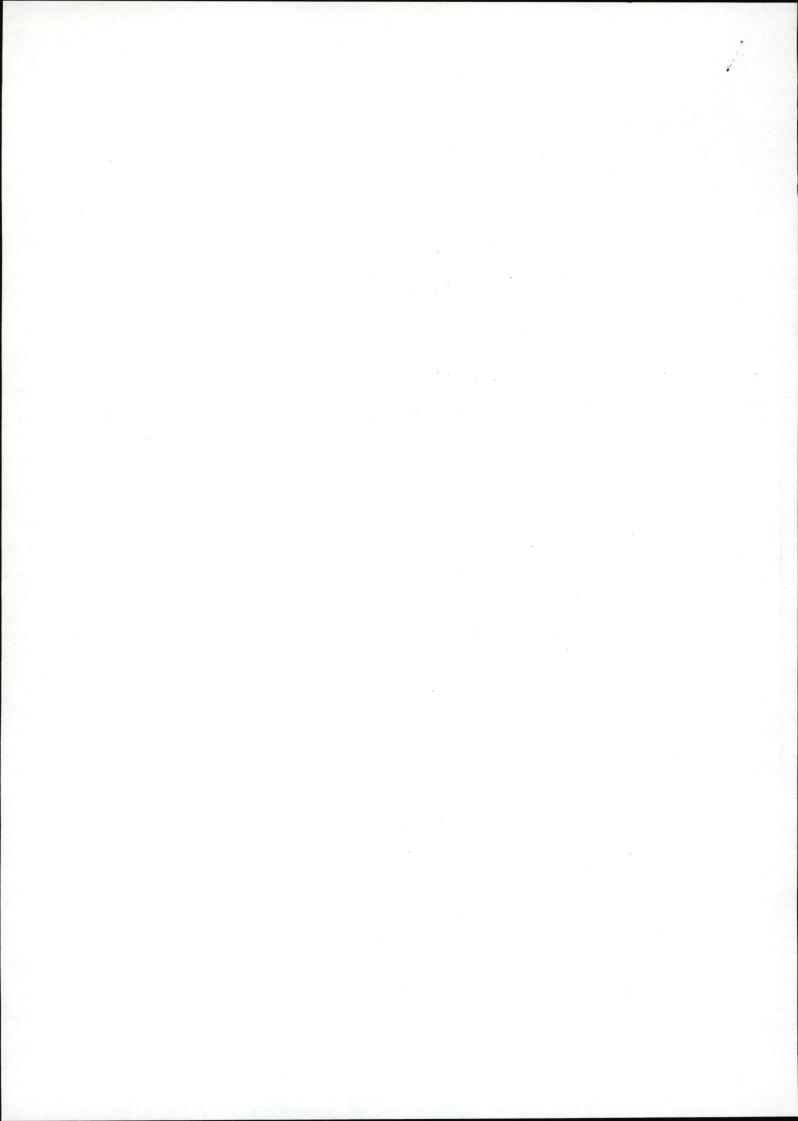


THE BILL PROPOSES THAT THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE
ACT BE AMENDED TO PERMIT PERSONS HOLDING EMU LICENCES TO
BREED AND RAISE EMUS AND TRADE IN EMU PRODUCTS. EMUS
WILL ONLY BE PROCESSED IN LICENSED ABATTOIRS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE REGULATIONS WHICH WILL BE MADE UNDER THIS ACT WILL ADOPT THE "AUSTRALIAN MODEL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS - HUSBANDRY OF CAPTIVE BRED EMUS".

FURTHER, ALL EXISTING TEMPORARY LICENCES GRANTED FOR THE PURPOSES OF EMU FARMING WILL NOT BECOME FULL LICENCES UNDER THIS LEGISLATION UNTIL THE REGULATIONS ARE IN FORCE. INDEED, NO MORE TEMPORARY LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL THE REGULATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE REGULATIONS ARE MADE FOR THE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE INDUSTRY.

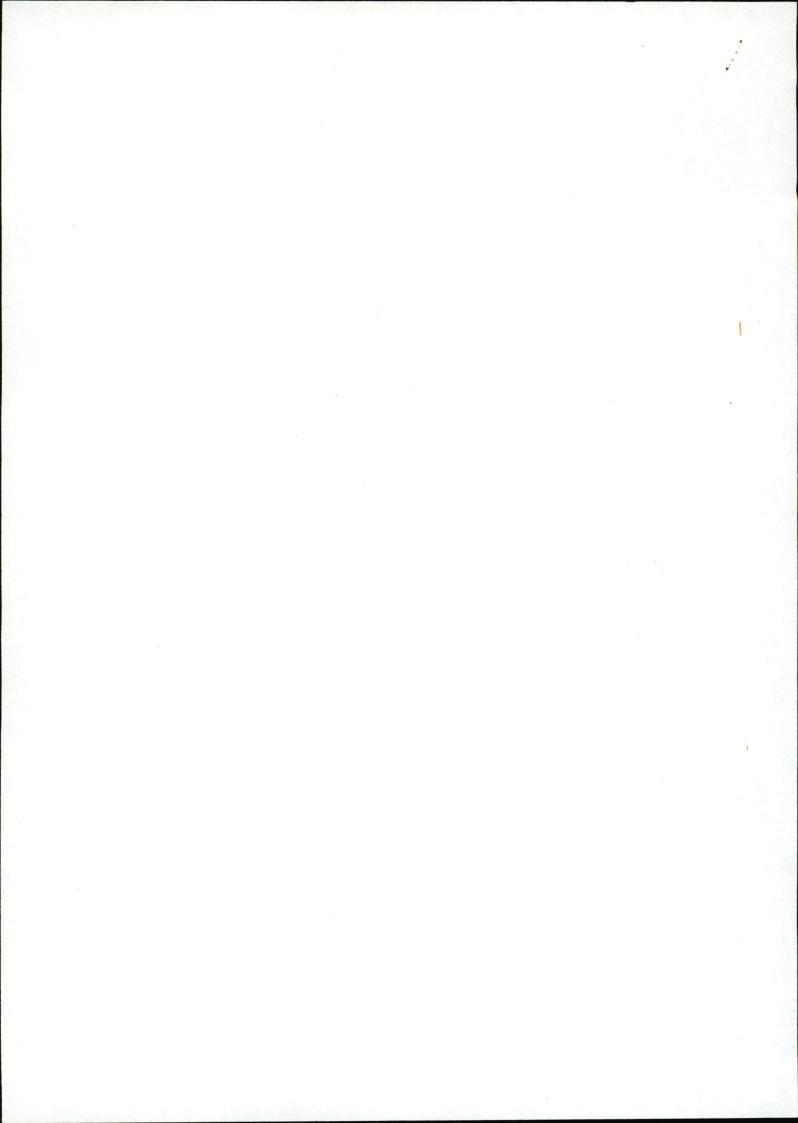
EMU FRIMING IS A NEW AND GROWING INDUSTRY. IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE JOBS AND INCOME FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW SCITH WALES AND IN PARTICULAR THE RURAL SECTOR WHICH HAS EFFN EXPERIENCING GREAT DIFFICULTIES. ESTABLISHING THE INDUSTRY WILL NOT POSE A CONSERVATION THREAT TO THE SPECIFE.



I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS NEW ENTERPRISE.

I COMMEND THIS BILL TO THE HOUSE.

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NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EMU LICENCE) AMENDMENT ACT 1993 No. 78

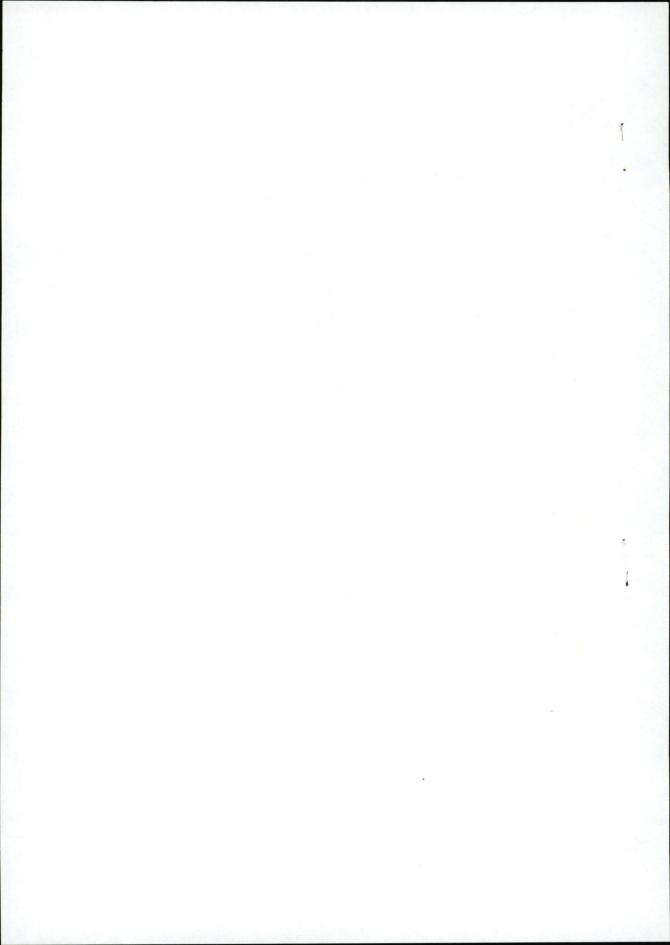
NEW SOUTH WALES



TABLE OF PROVISIONS

- 1. Short title
- 2. Commencement
- 3. Amendment of National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 No. 80
- 4. Amendment of Poultry Processing Act 1969 No. 45

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974



NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (EMU LICENCE) AMENDMENT ACT 1993 No. 78

NEW SOUTH WALES



Act No. 78, 1993

An Act to amend the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to provide for the licensing of emu breeding and other related activities; and for other purposes. [Assented to 22 November 1993]

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the National Parks and Wildlife (Emu Licence) Amendment Act 1993.

Commencement

2. This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

Amendment of National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 No. 80

3. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 is amended as set out in Schedule 1.

Amendment of Poultry Processing Act 1969 No. 45

4. Section 3 (1) of the Poultry Processing Act 1969 is amended by inserting in the definition of "poultry" after the word "bird", the words ", including an emu (that is, a bird of the species *Dromaius novaehollandiae*)".

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974

(Sec. 3)

(1) Section 5 (**Definitions**):

In section 5 (1), insert in alphabetical order:

- "emu" means any bird of the species *Dromaius* novaehollandiae;
- "emu breeder" means a person who exercises or carries on the business of breeding emus (including the rearing of emu chicks lawfully taken in the wild) or dealing in live emus, whole emu eggs or other emu products;

"emu products" means products (such as eggs, meat, skin, feathers, claws and oil) derived from emus or from the processing of emu carcases;

(2) Section 98 (Taking or killing protected fauna, other than endangered fauna):

From section 98 (3) (a), omit "or a trapper's licence under section 123", insert instead ", a trapper's licence under section 123 or an emu licence under section 125A".

(3) Section 103 (Taking or killing fauna for sale):

From section 103 (2), omit "or a trapper's licence under section 123", insert instead ", a trapper's licence under section 123 or an emu licence under section 125A".

- (4) Section 104 (Fauna dealers):
 - (a) Omit section 104 (1), insert instead:
 - (1) A person must not:
 - (a) exercise or carry on; or
 - (b) advertise, notify or state that he or she exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on; or
 - (c) in any way hold himself or herself out to the public as ready to exercise or carry on,

the business of a fauna dealer, unless the person does so under and in accordance with the authority conferred by a licence under Division 2 of Part 9.

(b) From section 104 (1A), omit "acquired from the holder of a fauna dealer's licence under section 124", insert instead "lawfully acquired from the holder of a licence under Division 2 of Part 9".

(5) Section 105:

Omit the section, insert instead:

Skin dealers

105. A person must not:

- (a) exercise or carry on; or
- (b) advertise, notify or state that he or she exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on; or
- (c) in any way hold himself or herself out to the public as ready to exercise or carry on,

the business of a skin dealer, unless the person does so under and in accordance with the authority conferred by a licence under Division 2 of Part 9.

(6) Section 105A:

After section 105, insert:

Emu breeders

105A. (1) A person must not:

- '(a) exercise or carry on; or
- (b) advertise, notify or state that he or she exercises or carries on or is willing to exercise or carry on; or
- (c) in any way hold himself or herself out to the public as ready to exercise or carry on,

the business of an emu breeder, unless the person does so under and in accordance with the authority conferred by a licence under Division 2 of Part 9.

- (2) A person is not to be convicted of an offence arising under subsection (1) in respect of the sale by retail of an emu product, but only if the product was lawfully acquired from:
 - (a) the holder of a licence under Division 2 of Part 9; or

- (b) a person who is authorised to sell emu products under the fauna protection legislation of another State or Territory.
- (7) Section 106 (Importing or exporting protected fauna):

In section 106 (2), after "this subsection", insert "or to any emu product".

(8) Section 108 (Possessing 20 or more birds):

At the end of the section, insert:

; or

- (c) that person is the holder of an emu licence under section 125A.
- (9) Section 125A:

After section 125, insert:

Emu licence

125A. An authorised officer may issue a licence (in this Act referred to as an "emu licence"), authorising a person to do any one or more of the following:

- (a) to buy or sell live emus, whole emu eggs or other emu products;
- (b) to kill emus reared or bred under and in accordance with the authority conferred by such a licence;
- (c) otherwise to exercise or carry on the business of an emu breeder.

(10) Section 154 (Regulations):

- (a) After section 154 (d), insert:
 - (d1) the records to be kept and returns to be furnished by persons engaged in the sale by retail of meat from a game animal (within the meaning of the Meat Industry Act 1978), as referred to in section 104 (1A), and the inspection of those records by officers of the Service;

- (d2) the records to be kept and returns to be furnished by persons engaged in the sale by retail of emu products, as referred to in section 105A (2), and the inspection of those records by officers of the Service;
- (b) In section 154 (i), after "120", insert "or 125A".
- (11) Section 164 (Powers of entry and seizure):

From section 164 (1) (b) (ii), omit "general licence under section 120", insert instead "licence under section 120 or 125A".

[Member's second reading speech made in— Legislative Assembly on 13 May 1993

Minister's second reading speech made in— Legislative Council on 11 November 1993]