

(No. 59.)



1874.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

RABBITS DESTRUCTION ACT.

PETITIONS FOR RENEWAL AND AMENDMENT.

Presented by Mr. Whyte, August 21 and 28; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 1, 1874.



*To the Honorable the President and the Members of the Legislative Council, in
Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landowners in the Campbell Town Rabbit District.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

WHEREAS the present "Rabbit Destruction Act" will expire at the end of this Session of Parliament. Your Petitioners beg your Honourable House will sanction its renewal ; as, after a fair trial in this District, it is found to work successfully and satisfactorily by compelling all to contribute to a fund to keep up the price of rabbit skins (remunerating to those catching), and so ensuring combined action, which can only be effected by a compulsory rate.

That being only a permissive Bill, it can only come in operation by the desire of a majority of Landowners in any District.

And further, your Petitioners would respectfully suggest that the number of Landowners required to petition for a Rabbit District be reduced, as in many Districts it is impossible to obtain the number required by the Act without including those in the Townships, which is not wished, as they are not so affected by the rabbit pest as the country Landowners.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 13 Signatures.]

*To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council, in
Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Landholders of the Rabbit District of Hamilton.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT "The Rabbit Destruction Act, 1871," has worked in the Hamilton Rabbit District most beneficially and satisfactorily, and has been the means of clearing large sections of the District, which have been for several years almost valueless consequent on the enormous increase of rabbits.

Your Petitioners beg to inform your Honourable House that since September, 1872, when the Hamilton Rabbit Trustees commenced operations, about two hundred and twenty thousand Rabbits (220,000) have been destroyed in their District ; and the aggregate amount of rates levied on the ratepayers for the years 1872 and 1873 was Two hundred and twelve pounds (£212).

Your Petitioners most respectfully and earnestly solicit that you will be pleased to re-enact the present Bill. They would beg to impress upon you its great importance : should its operations cease, whole Districts would be infested and laid waste by the rapid increase of rabbits.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 32 Signatures.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.