

EGG QUOTAS MUST STAY — McCLURE

The system of licensing the production of eggs has been most successful and must continue, according to Bendigo State Member, Mr Daryl McClure.

Mr McClure said that the first period of licensing was drawing to a close.

The objective of the licensing provisions was to reduce uneconomic surplus production and to improve producers' returns.

In the first two years of operation, licensing reduced surplus production by 52.7 per cent, and producers' returns had increased by 20.3 per cent.

Mr. McClure said that recently he and other Bendigo Members of Parliament had met a deputation from the Commercial Egg Producers' Association of Victoria which had explained the success of licensing and sought its continuation.

Mr. McClure said that not only producers had benefitted, but so had consumers.



● Mr McClure

17.9 per cent

While the consumer price index rose 30.5 per cent over the past two years, the price of eggs in Victoria had risen only 17.9 per cent.

There was no doubt that the rapid decline in the number of poultry farmers in Bendigo had been arrested by the licensing provisions and there was a strong possibility that Bendigo in time could once again assert itself as the major egg-producing centre of Victoria.

The Victorian licensing system is part of what is now an Australia-wide program to control the production of eggs.

Interstate trafficking had also slowed down with the result that producers could now look to the future with some degree of confidence.

Mr. McClure said he would ask the Minister for Agriculture Mr. Smith, to continue the licensing provisions on an indefinite basis now that the three-year trial had been proved successful.