

**1996**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**DETERMINATION OF A PLACE TO BE A SPORTS BETTING VENUE**

**NO. 212 OF 1996**

**Circulated by the Authority of BILL STEFANIAK MLA**

**Minister for Sport and Recreation**

## **Outline**

The *Bookmakers Act 1985* (the Act) governs the activities of bookmakers in the Australian Capital Territory.

Part IIIA of the Act provides for the conduct and control of sports betting. In particular, section 39B (1) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine a place to be a sports betting venue

This instrument identifies a grass area behind the public viewing lawn and adjacent to the Acton Stand of the Canberra Racecourse, Block 2, Division of Lyneham to be a sports betting venue. This approval is in force for 29 September 1996 only

On 29 September 1996, the ACT Racing Club will hold its annual Canberra Cup race meeting. This day also coincides with the 1996 Rugby League Grand Final. This is the first year in which the Rugby League Grand Final has clashed with a feature race meeting of the ACT Racing Club

Given the interest in both racing and football in Canberra, the designated area has been set aside to allow a large marquee to be erected. The ACT Racing Club will provide large television screens to enable people attending the race meeting to view the Grand Final. As a added attraction and service to patrons, sports bookmakers will operate within the designated sports betting venue accepting bets on the football. Accordingly, it is necessary to declare the area as an approved sports betting venue.

## **Financial Implications**

The direct financial implications from this instrument are not expected to be significant. It is not anticipated that large turnover levels will be achieved as a direct result of this approval. Rather, it is anticipated that more patrons may attend the race meeting, given that the ACT Racing Club has provided the opportunity to also watch the Grand final.

Sports betting turnover reached \$14.7m in 1995-96 with approximately \$140,000 in Government revenue achieved.