

**1999**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**DETERMINATION OF EVENTS TO BE A SPORTS BETTING EVENT**

**INSTRUMENT NO. 48 OF 1999**

Circulated by the Authority of KATE CARNELL MLA

Chief Minister and Treasurer

## **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, the legislation empowers the Minister to determine events that sports betting may take place on.

Section 39A (1) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine a sporting or other event to be a sports betting event for the purpose of the Act.

This instrument revokes Determination No 67 of 1997, notified in Gazette No S99 of 18 April 1997. This Determination updates the list of approved sports betting events and contingencies, to reflect changes in competition names and broadens the range of events and other contingencies upon which sports betting may take place (for example, American Football, Ice Hockey and Soccer).

The broadening of the range of events has been in response to requests by licensed sports bookmakers to be permitted to offer markets that are offered by national and international competitors.

## **Financial Implications**

The financial implications from this instrument relate to a potential increase in turnover (and revenue) from broadening the approved range of events and contingencies. Sports betting has provided a new source of revenue to the Government and made a positive contribution to the ACT economy through increases in employment and ancillary activity.

This Determination also identifies that the limitations on individual sports or contingencies do not apply to parimutuel sports wagering. In this form of betting, all money is pooled and, after deducting the licensee's commission, the money in the pool is returned to winning punters.

As parimutuel sports wagering is not exposed to the same risk profile as fixed odds betting, it is possible to remove the individual restrictions on sports without subjecting the licensed bookmakers to unacceptable risks of untoward activity.