

1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**DETERMINATION OF DIRECTIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF A SPORTS
BETTING VENUE**

DETERMINATION NO. 37 OF 1997

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, the legislation empowers the Minister to determine a place to be a sports betting venue.

Section 39B (2) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine directions for the operation of a determined sports betting venue

This instrument sets the operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venue located at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium.

The instrument sets out the:-

- operating times that licensed sports betting bookmakers may accept face-to-face bets,
- requirements that a licensed sports bookmaker or a licensed agent must be in attendance during the operating hours;
- the restrictions on betting, and
- operational aspects including ticketing and reporting arrangements

In particular, the instrument sets the dates for five 1997 home games of the Canberra Cosmos in the 1996/97 Ericsson Cup soccer competition

The Instrument sets the operating hours from 5 30 pm to 9 30 pm for each game.

This Instrument requires that between the approved operating hours, a licensed sports bookmaker or licensed agent, must be in attendance. The Instrument restricts the method of betting to face-to-face transactions only.

Furthermore, the instrument details the ticketing requirements, security guarantee and administrative arrangements for the sports betting bookmakers operating at the venue for each home game.

Financial Implications

This Instrument sets the overall operating framework for the sports betting service at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium for the remaining Canberra Cosmos home games. This follows a successful trial over five games last year.

The trial of the provision of the sports betting service at Canberra Cosmos home games resulted in moderate turnover levels being achieved. However, feedback from the sports bookmakers indicated that the service was enthusiastically embraced by patrons and it provided an opportunity for the sports bookmakers to offer their services to a wider range of clients.

Over the first six home games of the 1996-97 season, an average of approximately 75 tickets were written for each match achieving an average turnover in excess of \$1,000 per game.

The provision of the sports betting service at Bruce Stadium enhances the range of entertainment and services available to patrons at Canberra Cosmos home games.