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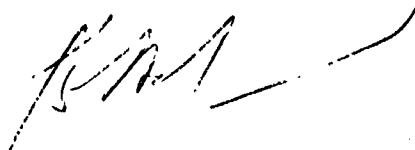
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

NO. 68 OF 1997

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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

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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 the determined sports betting venue.

This Instrument revokes Instrument No. 157 of 1995 and sets the revised operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venue.

In particular, Part 1 sets out the times that the sports betting bookmakers may accept bets by face-to-face or other approved method.

The Instrument also sets the hours that sports bookmakers are able to operate and provides the flexibility for the sports bookmakers to provide a face-to-face betting service if requested by the auditorium manager.

Part 2 sets out the requirements that a licensed sports bookmaker or a licensed agent must be in attendance at all times when sports betting business is being conducted.

Part 3 outlines the agreed restrictions on sports bookmakers in respect of accepting face-to-face bets on racing events when there is a race meeting being conducted by the ACT Racing Club or the Queanbeyan Racing Club.

Part 4 provides the restrictions on telecommunications including the requirement that all betting transactions are recorded on the approved equipment.

Parts 5 and 6 set out operational aspects relating to the provision of tickets to punters and the process in the event of a punter losing a betting ticket.

Part 7 details the restrictions imposed on sports bookmakers in respect to managing risk (laying off). This Part provides for sports bookmakers to only lay off with licensed bookmakers who are empowered to accept bets of the relevant kind.

Part 8 provides the broad arrangements in respect to annual accounting and financial statements and requires sports bookmakers to provide annual reports or statements to the Registrar of Bookmakers.

Part 9 outlines the process for the appropriate calculation of exchange rates to ensure that the correct amount of license fee is paid in respect of bets accepted in a currency other than Australian dollars.

Finally, Part 10 sets out the broad management and reporting arrangements for the manager of the sports betting venue and Part 11 outlines the agreed financial arrangements between the sports bookmakers and the Auditorium Manager. The financial arrangements provide a more equitable user pays system and are expected to result in decreased costs to the sports bookmakers.

The revised operational framework, as embraced by this Instrument, has been developed in consultation with the sports betting bookmakers and the ACT Racing Club. This framework provides an appropriate level of oversight in respect to this developing industry.

Financial Implications

This instrument sets the overall operating framework for the sports betting service which, to date, has provided increased levels of revenue to the Government.

The guarantee arrangements provide that the auditorium manager does not carry any liability in respect of the sports betting business. The reporting arrangements ensure that appropriate information is provided to the Registrar of Bookmakers detailing the operations of the sports betting venue.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this instrument. Sports betting has been established for approximately eighteen months and over that time the service has grown to a \$50m per annum activity.

To date, the levels of revenue to Government have exceeded expectations.

In relation to this Instrument, the minimum bet level for betting on racing events is consistent with the minimum bet levels for on-course telephone betting.

The establishment of a mechanism to protect the funds deposited by clients provides an appropriate level of security to all punters.

The requirements for the recording of all bets accepted and additional provisions regarding facsimile and Internet betting will ensure that the appropriate level of licence fee is paid to the Government, adequate records of the sports betting business are maintained and a details of all transactions is available in the event of a dispute between a punter and a licensed sports betting bookmaker.