

2000

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ROAD TRANSPORT (GENERAL) ACT 1999

ROAD TRANSPORT (TAXI SERVICES) REGULATIONS 2000

Subordinate Law No. 5 of 2000

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Circulated by the Authority of Minister for Urban Services
Brendan Smyth MLA**

**ROAD TRANSPORT (TAXI SERVICES) REGULATION 2000
UNDER THE ROAD TRANSPORT (GENERAL) ACT 1999**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Road Transport (General) Act 1999* replaces in whole the powers found in the *Motor Traffic Act 1936*, as they relate to public passenger transport services.

The *Motor Traffic Act 1936* will be repealed on 1 March 2000 upon introduction of the *Road Transport (General) Act 1999*. The regulations under the *Motor Traffic Act 1936* will also be repealed and replaced by a package of public passenger regulations – taxi services, omnibus services and hire car services. This Explanatory Statement deals with the *Road Transport (Taxi Service) Regulations 2000*.

The *Road Transport (General) Act 1999* was introduced in conjunction with national road transport reforms. As part of this process a review of the existing legislation was required. The opportunity has been taken to introduce modern regulations developed in conjunction with industry to better support the provision of healthy, safe and high-quality public transport services.

The regulations bring the ACT more into line with those applying in NSW. In addition to clarifying existing regulations and simplifying the language used, the new regulations incorporate:

- the introduction of fare deposits to minimise the incidence of fare evasion.
- provisions to support the delivery of high quality services for people with disabilities. This includes the requirement for all drivers to undertake continuing education, particularly in relation to effectively meeting the needs of people with disabilities.
- formalised arrangements for the provision of stand-by taxis to replace vehicles that become inoperable. This will ensure continuity of service to the public and assist in preserving the financial viability of the operator.
- provisions relating to the conduct of both drivers and passengers to strengthen occupational health and safety arrangements and address offensive behaviour.