

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY

RATES AND LAND RENT (RELIEF) ACT 1970
RATES AND LAND RENT (RELIEF) REGULATION 3

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Rates and Land Rent (Relief) Act 1970* (the Act) provides for relief to eligible pensioners, specified Social Security payment recipients and persons suffering hardship, from land, water and sewerage rates in the form of deferral of the obligation to pay these municipal rates.

Section 23 empowers the Minister to fix the rates of interest levied on

- deferred rates; and
- any rates remaining unpaid after the revocation of a deferment.

Under subsection 23 (3), interest rates may not exceed the rate prescribed by Regulation.

Section 24 empowers the Executive to make regulations.

This amendment to regulation 3 of the Regulations sets the new prescribed rate at 16.5% per annum. While placing a ceiling on the interest rates which can be charged under the Act, it also ensures that debtors who are no longer eligible for a deferment are treated the same as other rates debtors under the various Acts which levy municipal rates. It also removes complexities in regulation 3 which make the requirement of subsection 23(3) administratively impractical.

Circulated by authority of
Kate Carnell, Treasurer