

1995

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**ESSENTIAL SERVICES (CONTINUITY OF SUPPLY)
REGULATIONS**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by Authority of the Minister for Urban Services

David Lamont MLA

ESSENTIAL SERVICES (CONTINUITY OF SUPPLY) REGULATIONS

The *Essential Services (Continuity of Supply) Act 1992* (the Act) provides a regime to ensure that essential services are not withdrawn from people suffering substantial financial hardship without an opportunity for review. Such a person may make an application to the Essential Services Review Committee for relief under the Act. The Committee's powers include directing the service provider not to withdraw the service until a specified time period has elapsed, arranging for payment of the account by instalments or discharging liability partly or completely.

Under section 3 of the Act, an "essential service" is defined as the provision of electricity or any other prescribed service. The Essential Services (Continuity of Supply) Regulations are made under section 28 of the Act and prescribe water and sewerage as essential services for the purposes of section 3 of the Act.

Regulation 1 deals with the citation of the Regulations.

Regulation 2 provides that the Regulations will commence on the day on which they are notified in the Gazette.

Regulation 3 is an interpretation provision providing that a reference to "the Act" in the Regulations means the *Essential Services (Continuity of Supply) Act 1992*.

Regulation 4 provides that the supply of reticulated water and sewerage services are prescribed essential services for the purposes of the Act.