

1998

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1998

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**Circulated by authority of
Gary Humphries, Attorney-General**

OUTLINE

This Bill provides for the *Electoral Act 1992* to be amended so that a redistribution of electoral boundaries shall commence after the third Saturday in **October** two years before the next due date for an election, rather than after the third Saturday in **February** two years and eight months before the next election.

As the Electoral Act currently stands, a redistribution of electoral boundaries is due to commence after the third Saturday in February 1999. However, the Assembly Select Committee on the Report of the Review of Governance is currently considering the issue of changing the numbers of members elected to the Assembly. Any change to the number of members to be elected would change the redistribution criteria. This Bill will delay the commencement of the 1999 redistribution in order to give the Legislative Assembly time in which to consider the outcome of the Select Committee's deliberations.

This Bill will also bring the redistribution timetable into line with the new timetable for elections, with the next election due to be held on 20 October 2001, and elections thereafter to be held on the third Saturday in October every three years.

Financial Implications

None.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

Formal clauses

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal requirements. They refer to the short title of the Bill and commencement. The Act is to commence on the day on which it is notified in the *Gazette*.

Principal Act

Clause 3 defines 'Principal Act' to mean the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Timing of redistributions

Clause 4 amends section 37 of the Electoral Act to provide that, after each ordinary election, a redistribution shall begin as soon as practicable after the commencement of the period of two years ending on the expiration of the third Saturday in **October** in the year in which the next ordinary election is due to be held.