

## Michael Moore MLA

*Independent*

### ***Legislative Assembly (Broadcasting of Procedures) Bill 1997***

#### **Explanatory Memorandum**

This Bill would provide for the authorisation of broadcasts of the proceedings of the Assembly by the Speaker.

The Bill covers broadcasting to the public and internal transmission to ACT government offices.

The Bill confers a defence to defamation for broadcasts of proceedings

Clause notes:

**Clause 3** - This clause provides for interpretation of terms in this Bill.

#### **Part II - Broadcasting to government offices**

**Clauses 4 and 5** - These clauses provides for the Speaker to authorise internal transmissions to government offices.

**Clause 6** - This clause provides that a broadcast to government offices is immune from liability for defamation or other legal actions

#### **Part III - Broadcasting to public**

**Clause 7** - This clause provides for the Assembly to adopt Guidelines for the making of authorisations by the Speaker to make public Broadcasts

**Clause 8** - This clause empowers the Speaker to authorise public broadcasts. These authorisations are to be in accordance with Guidelines adopted by the Assembly. All authorisations, and any variations to them, must be reported to the Assembly.

**Clause 9** - This clause provides that a person is not to make a broadcast to the public without an authorisation by the Speaker. No penalty is provided. The 'penalty' for breach of broadcasting conditions would be in the hands of the Assembly, possibly by way of withdrawal of access to media agencies which breach broadcasting authorisations

**Clause 10** - This clause provides a defence against defamation for public broadcasts which are fair and accurate report of proceedings

**Note:** The government has indicated an intention to introduce related legislation to deal with management of the precincts of the Assembly, and to deal with privileges of the Members.

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