

2005

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

WATER AND SEWERAGE AMENDMENT REGULATION 2005 (No 1)

Subordinate Law SL2005-16

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Circulated by authority of Simon Corbell MLA
Minister for Planning

BACKGROUND AND OUTLINE

The *Water and Sewerage Regulations 2001* create regulations covering various aspects of the water supply and drainage system and related work.

The *Water and Sewerage Amendment Regulation 2005 (No 1)* will remove provisions prohibiting the installation of in-sink waste disposal units in domestic sanitary plumbing work.

There currently exists a prohibition on the installation of in-sink waste disposal units. The prohibition was introduced as a water saving measure. Recent evidence suggests that even with high levels of market penetration, in-sink waste disposal units increase total urban water use by less than 1%. The prohibition is therefore an ineffective method of reducing urban water use.

In medium density dwellings where suitable land is unavailable to residents, in-sink waste disposal units are seen as an alternative to composting – the preferred means of organic waste disposal. The prohibition of in-sink waste disposal units is therefore disadvantageous to residents in medium density dwellings.

The small increase in the amount of organic matter entering the sewerage system as a result of the installation of in-sink waste disposal units will not present problems for the ACT's waste water treatment plant.

CLAUSE NOTES

Clause 1 provides for the name of the regulation to be the *Water and Sewerage Amendment Regulation 2005 (No 1)*.

Clause 2 provides that the regulation commences on the day after the notification day.

Clause 3 provides that the regulation amends the *Water and Sewerage Regulation 2001*.

Clause 4 substitutes section 16E (1) (b) and (c). This effectively removes sub-section (c), which prohibits the installation of in-sink waste disposal units in domestic sanitary plumbing work.