

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

WORLD CUP ATHLETICS (SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS)

ORDINANCE 1985

No. 46 of 1985

The fourth World Cup Athletics (WCA) meeting is to be held at the National Athletics Stadium, Canberra, over the period 4-6 October 1985.

While it is acknowledged that the threat of terrorist acts or associated violence in relation to the WCA meeting is low, reasonable security measures are nevertheless required to protect international athletes and any VIPs attending the event.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) consider that major physical security installations such as security fencing and lighting, infra-red beam and microwave systems, disturbance sensors, and closed-circuit television will not be required if the police have adequate powers for the occasion. Security would be provided by way of mobile and foot patrols, bomb searches, ID checks and - where necessary - searches of persons and property. The AFP's current powers in this area are, however, uncertain and could be questioned in subsequent legal proceedings.

In recognition of this, and bearing in mind the substantial cost of providing additional physical security measures (estimated at \$1.026M), Cabinet agreed on 16 July 1985 that an Ordinance be made giving AFP officers powers to demand the name and address of, and to search, suspicious persons. These powers will be limited to a "prescribed area" comprising the Australian Institute of Sport/National Athletics Stadium complex, the Canberra College of Advanced Education (where the athletes will reside), and the transit corridor linking the two, and be effective for the period 28 September 1985 to 8 October 1985 to cover the arrival and departure of the athletes.

The Government is particularly concerned that any measures along the lines of those contained in the Queensland Commonwealth Games Act are not taken in regard to security arrangements for the WCA meeting. Consequently, police officers will rely on existing powers under ACT legislation to proceed beyond demanding the name and address of, and searching, suspicious persons.

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