

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**  
**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
**RATES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1985**

NO. 52 OF 1985

Section 13 of the Rates Ordinance 1926 ("the principal Ordinance") provided that the Minister may, by instrument in writing published in the Gazette declare first that rates in respect of a parcel of land in the City Area shall be imposed at a specified percentage of the unimproved capital value of that land ("the urban rating level"); and secondly that the rates in respect of a parcel of land not situated in the City Area shall be imposed at another specified percentage of the unimproved capital value of the land ("the rural rating level"). The rural rating level is declared to be half the urban rating level.

In a number of cases leases situated within the City Area are used primarily for rural purposes. It was considered that rates for those leases should be assessed by reference to the rural rating level and not the urban rating level as was previously the case. The Rates (Amendment) Ordinance 1985 ("the amending Ordinance") will now allow rural-type leases which are located either wholly or partly within the City Area to be assessed at the rural rating level.

Details of the amending Ordinance are as follows:

Section 1 deals with citation.

Section 2 amends section 13 of the principal Ordinance to provide that the rural rating level applies to land which is either outside the City Area or which is prescribed land. Prescribed land is defined by the new sub-section 13(4) to mean land that is held under a lease for rural purposes within the meaning of the Leases Ordinance 1918.