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.....**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

.....**UTILITIES ACT 2000**

.....**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Utilities Act 2000* (the “Act”) requires persons providing utility services in the ACT to hold appropriate operating licences. Section 22 of the Act provides that in some circumstances the Minister may exempt a person from this requirement.

Country Energy has sought an exemption from the requirement to hold a licence for approximately 12 kilometres of electricity distribution line which it owns and operates along the ACT and New South Wales border. Queanbeyan City Council has also sought an exemption for the sewerage treatment facility and sewer trunk main that it operates in Oaks Estate. The operation of this facility and of the trunk main were conditions of the lease granted to Queanbeyan City Council by the Commonwealth Government in 1938. The Council does not provide any other sewerage services in the ACT.

The circumstances surrounding the electricity distribution services provided by Country Energy and the sewerage services provided by Queanbeyan City Council in the ACT are exceptional and anomalous. Both Country Energy and Queanbeyan City Council have therefore been exempted from the requirement to hold licences under the Act for the provision of these particular utility services.