

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

***UTILITIES ACT 2000***

**DECLARATION UNDER SUBSECTION 18(4)**

**UTILITIES (DECLARATION OF NON-FRANCHISE NATURAL  
GAS CUSTOMERS) DECLARATION 2000**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**INSTRUMENT NO. 94 OF 2001**

The *Utilities Act 2000* commenced on 1 January 2001. Section 18(1) of this Act provides for the declaration of non-franchise customers, in relation to the supply of electricity, gas or water to stated premises or the premises of a stated class.

Non-franchise customers are in effect customers who have choice of supplier. Other customers are franchise customers.

Under the Ministerial Declaration, a person who owns or occupies premises at which natural gas is consumed is declared to be a non-franchise customer in respect of the consumption of natural gas at these premises. The Declaration will take effect on the day nominated by the consumer after notice is given to the local gas supplier.

Under the Ministerial Declaration, any natural gas customer may thus choose his or her preferred natural gas supplier but, should no choice be made, the customer remains a franchise customer.