

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

INSTRUMENT NO. 314 OF 2000

DOG CONTROL ACT 1975

DECLARATION OF DOG EXERCISE AREAS IN GUNGAHLIN

The *Dog Control Act 1975* governs the keeping and control of dogs within the ACT. Under section 7C. of the Act there is provision for the Minister to declare a specified area to be a dog exercise area. A declaration is a disallowable instrument for the purposes of section 10 of the *Subordinate Laws Act 1989*.

This declaration provides dog exercise areas in the developed parts of Gungahlin at the time of the declaration. Dog exercise areas have previously been declared for other Canberra Suburbs including the suburbs of Hall and Mitchell. Dog exercise areas for the suburb of Dunlop are also being declared at this time.

The ACT Government recognises the needs of dog owners and the broader community through the declaration of dog exercise areas. In general, dogs in public places are required to be restrained by a competent person by means of a leash, and under the control of that person. Declared areas provide opportunities for dog owners to exercise their animals off-leash, allowing them greater freedom. However, dogs are still required to be under the control of a competent person at all times.

It should be noted that while a block of land may be declared a dog exercise area, restricted areas may exist within the declared block. These restrictions prohibit dogs from within 10 metres of children's play equipment or barbecue areas. Where a playing field has been declared a dog exercise area, dogs are prohibited from being on the field or playing area while organised sport is being played. Under the *Dog Control Act 1975*, penalties apply to people taking dogs into restricted areas.

Maps that complement the dog exercise area declarations are available at all ACT Government shopfronts and libraries, the offices of Domestic Animal Services, Mugga Lane, Symonston, or by telephoning Domestic Animal Services on 6207 2424.