

**Australian Capital Territory**

***ROADS AND PUBLIC PLACES ACT 1937***

**CODE OF PRACTICE  
FOR THE PLACEMENT OF MOVABLE SIGNS IN PUBLIC PLACES**

**INSTRUMENT NO. 225 OF 1999**

**Explanatory Statement**

The *Roads and Public Places Act 1937* (the Act) was amended in November 1998 to allow movable signs in public places to be regulated by a code of practice.

Section 12A of the Act empowers the Minister to determine the code of practice as a disallowable instrument and section 12B provides that the code may include matters relating to –

- a) the materials from which, and the methods by which, a sign may be constructed;
- b) the sizes of signs;
- c) the locations in which a sign may be placed
- d) the words or images that may be displayed on a sign;
- e) the way in which the person responsible for a sign may be identified;
- f) the number of signs that a person may place or keep in a public place; and
- g) the requirements relating to insurance that a person who places or keeps a sign in a public place must satisfy.

The code of practice is an expanded and refined version of an administrative guideline which was developed about three years ago in consultation with the business community. In content, the main difference between the earlier administrative guideline and the code is that the code is more specific in relation to community signs and electoral advertising signs.

A person who wishes to place a sign which does not comply with all aspects of the code of practice retains the option to apply to the Minister for a permit to place an object in a public place, under sections 15A – 15R of the Act. These provisions include guidance on matters to which the Minister shall have regard in issuing a permit and allow the Minister to place conditions on the permit. Section 9A of the Act further allows the Minister to determine fees for issue of the permit.

**Circulated by authority of**

**Brendan Smyth MLA  
Minister for Urban Services**