

1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**DETERMINATION OF DIRECTIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF A SPORTS BETTING
VENUE**

INSTRUMENT NO.244 OF 1997

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

Outline

The *Bookmakers Act 1985* (the Act) governs the activities of bookmakers in the Australian Capital Territory.

Part IIIA of the Act provides for the conduct and control of sports betting. In particular, the legislation empowers the Minister to determine the regulatory and control arrangements for sports betting.

Section 39B (2) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine directions for the operation of a determined sports betting venue.

This instrument sets the operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venues determined within Manuka Oval.

The instrument sets out the:-

- the days and times upon which licensed sports betting bookmakers may provide the sports betting service;
- the requirements that a licensed sports bookmaker or a licensed agent must be in attendance during the operating hours;
- the restrictions on telecommunications equipment; and
- operational aspects including ticketing and reporting arrangements.

In particular, the instrument provides for licensed sports bookmakers to provide a sports betting service on those days that the Canberra Comets cricket team participates in the Mercantile Mutual national one day cricket competition and the days that the Prime Minister's XI plays in the annual match against a visiting international touring side.

The instrument also sets the operating hours to be the period from one hour prior to the scheduled commencement of play to one half of one hour after the conclusion of play. It requires that between the approved operating hours, a licensed sports bookmaker or licensed agent, must be in attendance. The instrument restricts the method of betting to face-to-face transactions only.

Furthermore, the instrument details the ticketing requirements, security guarantee and administrative arrangements for the sports betting bookmakers operating at Manuka Oval.

The arrangements for the provision of sports betting at Manuka Oval have been developed in consultation with the Australian Cricket Board, the ACT Cricket Association and licensed ACT sports bookmakers.

Financial Implications

This instrument sets the overall operating framework for the sports betting service at Manuka Oval.

The provision of sports betting at the 1996 Prime Minister's XI game was successful with moderate levels of turnover achieved. Feedback from the sports bookmakers indicated that the service was enthusiastically embraced by patrons and it provided an opportunity for the sports bookmakers to offer their services to a wider range of clients.

The provision of sports betting service by bookmakers at live sporting events has proven to be successful. Sports betting will provide a unique feature to the services available at Manuka Oval for these first class cricket matches and represents a valuable opportunity for Canberra based sports betting bookmakers to gain national exposure from the television coverage of these games.

Total turnover from sports betting was over \$67m in 1996-97, with direct Government revenue exceeding \$550,000.