

1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

DETERMINATION OF A PLACE TO BE A SPORTS BETTING VENUE

INSTRUMENT NO.243 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 (1) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine a place to be a sports betting venue.

This instrument identifies areas three areas - at the northern and southern ends of Manuka Oval and near the main Western entrance - to be approved sports betting venues.

Over the past two years, the services available at a number of live sports events, particularly Bruce Stadium, have been enhanced by the provision of sports betting facilities. Given the success of these arrangements and a desire to capitalise on the opportunity for national television exposure for Canberra based sports bookmakers, sports betting will be permitted at Manuka Oval for matches involving the Canberra Comets playing in the Mercantile Mutual Cup and the annual Prime Minister's XI match.

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

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this instrument. Sports betting has provided increased levels of revenue to the Government and has resulted in an increase in economic activity through the establishment of new business and the creation of a number of new jobs within the Territory.

The provision of sports betting by bookmakers at Manuka Oval represents a valuable opportunity for sports betting bookmakers to promote their services to clients.