

1995

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

No. 157 of 1995

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

Circulated by the Authority of BILL STEFANIAK MLA

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 a place to be a sports betting venue.

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

This instrument sets the operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venue.

In particular, the instrument sets out the times that the sports betting bookmakers may accept bets by face-to-face or other approved method.

Determination No. 136 of 1995 did not provide for face-to-face betting. As the approved sports betting venue is now ready for the public to place bets with licensed sports betting bookmakers, this instrument makes provision for the opening hours of the venue for face-to-face betting.

The instrument sets the minimum opening hours of the venue and provides the flexibility for the auditorium manager to extend the minimum times if there is a sporting or other event which warrants an extension to the closing or opening hours.

The instrument further sets out the requirements that a licensed sports bookmaker or a licensed agent must be in attendance at all times that the sports betting venue is open.

The instrument outlines the agreed restrictions on sports bookmakers in respect of accepting face-to-face bets on racing events when there is a local race meeting being conducted in the ACT or Queanbeyan. These restrictions have been developed to provide a measure of protection for live racing in the region.

The instrument further provides the restrictions on telecommunications including the requirement that all telephone calls are recorded on the approved equipment and specifying the restrictions on making calls from the sports betting venue.

The instrument sets out operational aspects including reporting arrangements, ticketing issues and provides the management arrangements for the sports betting venue.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this instrument. This instrument sets the overall operating framework for the sports betting service which is expected to provide increased levels of revenue to the Government.

The guarantee arrangements provide that the auditorium manager does not carry any liability in respect of the sports betting business. The reporting arrangements ensure that appropriate reports and information are provided to the Registrar of Bookmakers detailing the operations of the sports betting venue.