

1996

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

NO. 32 OF 1996

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

DETERMINATION OF A PLACE TO BE A 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 (1) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine a place to be a sports betting venue

This instrument identifies the forecourt area between the rear of the Mal Meninga Stand and the main entrance, on the Western side of the complex, at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium to be a sports betting venue

By Determination No 17 of 1996 published in Gazette No S43 of 14 March 1996, an area on the concourse level of the Mal Meninga Stand was determined as an approved sports betting venue. This location was approved on a trial basis in an attempt to gauge the level of interest in a sports bookmaker operating at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium.

As the ticketing and reserved seating arrangements at the Stadium do not permit outer ground ticket holders to obtain access to the Mal Meninga Stand, it is proposed to determine the forecourt, between the main grandstand and the main entrance into the Bruce Outdoor Stadium as an approved sports betting venue. This location will provide access to the services of a sports bookmaker to the majority of patrons entering the stadium.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this instrument. The introduction of 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 a sports betting service by bookmakers at live sporting events will provide a unique addition to the services available at Bruce Outdoor Stadium and represent a valuable opportunity for sports betting bookmakers to promote their services to a wider range of clients.

The first trial of a sports bookmaker operating at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium, on 15 March 1996, did not generate large amounts of turnover. However, many patrons expressed interest in opening accounts or availing themselves of the service at future matches. Clearly a continuity of the service and an increase in the availability of the sports betting service to patrons is expected to result in future growth of turnover