



Australian Capital Territory

# Utilities Act 2000

**A2000-65**

**Republication No 70**

**Effective: 27 February 2025 – 25 November 2025**

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## About this republication

### The republished law

This is a republication of the *Utilities Act 2000* (including any amendment made under the [Legislation Act 2001](#), part 11.3 (Editorial changes)) as in force on 27 February 2025. It also includes any commencement, amendment, repeal or expiry affecting this republished law to 27 February 2025.

The legislation history and amendment history of the republished law are set out in endnotes 3 and 4.

### Kinds of republications

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- authorised republications to which the [Legislation Act 2001](#) applies
- unauthorised republications.

The status of this republication appears on the bottom of each page.

### Editorial changes

The Legislation Act 2001, part 11.3 authorises the Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial amendments and other changes of a formal nature when preparing a law for republication. Editorial changes do not change the effect of the law, but have effect as if they had been made by an Act commencing on the republication date (see [Legislation Act 2001](#), s 115 and s 117). The changes are made if the Parliamentary Counsel considers they are desirable to bring the law into line, or more closely into line, with current legislative drafting practice.

This republication includes amendments made under part 11.3 (see endnote 1).

### Uncommenced provisions and amendments

If a provision of the republished law has not commenced, the symbol **U** appears immediately before the provision heading. Any uncommenced amendments that affect this republished law are accessible on the ACT legislation register ([www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au)). For more information, see the home page for this law on the register.

### Modifications

If a provision of the republished law is affected by a current modification, the symbol **M** appears immediately before the provision heading. The text of the modifying provision appears in the endnotes. For the legal status of modifications, see the [Legislation Act 2001](#), section 95.

### Penalties

At the republication date, the value of a penalty unit for an offence against this law is \$160 for an individual and \$810 for a corporation (see [Legislation Act 2001](#), s 133).



Australian Capital Territory

# Utilities Act 2000

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Australian Capital Territory

## Utilities Act 2000

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An Act to regulate the provision of services by certain utilities, and for other matters

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## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Utilities Act 2000*.

### 3 ICRC's objects

ICRC's objects under this Act are as follows:

- (a) to encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient and high quality utility services at reasonable prices;
- (b) to minimise the potential for misuse of monopoly power in the provision of utility services;
- (c) to promote competition in the provision of utility services;
- (d) to encourage long-term investment, growth and employment in utility service industries;
- (e) to promote ecologically sustainable development in the provision of utility services;
- (f) to protect the interests of consumers;
- (g) to ensure that advice given to ICRC by the ACAT is properly considered;
- (h) to ensure the Government's programs about the provision of utility services are properly addressed;
- (i) to give effect to directions of the Minister under section 19.



## 4 Dictionary

The dictionary at the end of this Act is part of this Act.

*Note 1* The dictionary at the end of this Act defines certain terms used in this Act, and includes references (*signpost definitions*) to other terms defined elsewhere in this Act.

For example, the signpost definition ‘*customer*—see section 17 (Customers).’ means the term ‘customer’ is defined in that section.

*Note 2* A definition in the dictionary applies to the entire Act unless the definition, or another provision of the Act, provides otherwise or the contrary intention otherwise appears (see [Legislation Act](#), s 155 and s 156 (1)).

## 5 Notes

A note included in this Act is explanatory and is not part of this Act.

*Note* See [Legislation Act](#), s 127 (1), (4) and (5) for the legal status of notes.

**5A Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc**

Other legislation applies in relation to offences against this Act.

*Note 1 Criminal Code*

The [Criminal Code](#), ch 2 applies to the following offences against this Act (see Code, pt 2.1):

- s 54J (Production of relevant information etc)
- s 54L (Offence—failure to register)
- s 75H (Offence—contravention of code, s 75E or s 75GA)
- s 75J (Offence—contravention of direction)
- s 75K (Offence—contravention of s 75F)
- s 243 (Identity cards)
- s 248 (Interference with territory networks).

The chapter sets out the general principles of criminal responsibility (including burdens of proof and general defences), and defines terms used for offences to which the Code applies (eg *conduct*, *intention*, *recklessness* and *strict liability*).

*Note 2 Penalty units*

The [Legislation Act](#), s 133 deals with the meaning of offence penalties that are expressed in penalty units.

## **Part 2                      Utility services**

### **Division 2.1              Electricity**

#### **6                      Electricity services**

For this Act, each of the following is a *utility service*:

- (a) the distribution of electricity through an electricity network;
- (b) an electricity connection service;
- (c) the capacity to generate 30MW or more of power connected to an electricity network;
- (d) the transmission of electricity through an electricity network.

#### **7                      Electricity networks**

- (1) For this Act, an *electricity transmission network* consists of infrastructure used, or for use, in relation to the transmission of electricity by a person to an electricity distribution network.
- (2) For this Act, an *electricity distribution network* consists of infrastructure used, or for use, in relation to the distribution of electricity by a person for supply to the premises of another person.
- (3) In this section:

*infrastructure* means—

- (a) powerlines; or
- (b) substations and equipment for monitoring, distributing, converting, transforming, or controlling electricity; or
- (c) a structure supporting overhead powerlines; or
- (d) wires, ducts or pipes for wires, or equipment; or
- (e) any other thing ancillary to any other part of the infrastructure.

- (4) An *electricity network* does not include infrastructure that is outside the network boundary.

## Division 2.2                      Natural gas

### 8                      Gas—terminology

- (1) In this Act:  
*gas* means natural gas.
- (2) A term used in any of the following has the same meaning in this Act:
- (a) *National Gas (ACT) Act 2008*;
  - (b) *National Gas (ACT) Law*;
  - (c) *National Gas (ACT) Regulation*.

*Note*                      A definition in an Act applies except so far as the contrary intention appears (see [Legislation Act](#), s 155).

- (3) In this section:  
*natural gas*—see the *National Gas (ACT) Law*, section 2.

### 9                      Gas services

For this Act, each of the following is a *utility service*:

- (a) the transmission of gas through a gas transmission network;
- (b) the distribution of gas through a gas distribution network;
- (c) a gas connection service.

## **10 Gas networks**

- (1) For this Act, a **gas transmission network** consists of infrastructure used, or for use, in relation to the transmission of gas by a person through a transmission pipeline to a gas distribution network owned or operated by another person.
- (2) For this Act, a **gas distribution network** consists of infrastructure used, or for use, in relation to the distribution of gas by a person through a distribution pipeline for supply to premises of another person.
- (3) In this section:

**distribution pipeline**—see the *National Gas (ACT) Law*, section 2.

**infrastructure** means—

- (a) pipelines; or
- (b) meters; or
- (c) any equipment (including pressure control devices, excess flow valves, control valves, actuators, electrical equipment, telemetry equipment, cathodic protection installations, compounds, pits, buildings, signs and fences); or
- (d) any other thing ancillary to any other part of the infrastructure.

**transmission pipeline**—see the *National Gas (ACT) Law*, section 2.

- (4) A **gas network** does not include infrastructure that is outside the network boundary.

## Division 2.3                      Water

### 11                      Water services

For this Act, each of the following is a *utility service*:

- (a) the collection or treatment of water, or both, for distribution through a water network;
- (b) making a water network available for the provision of water connection services;
- (c) the distribution of water through a water network;
- (d) a water connection service;
- (e) the supply of water from a water network to premises for consumption.

### 12                      Water network

- (1) For this Act, a *water network* consists of the infrastructure mentioned in subsection (2) used, or for use, in relation to any of the following purposes:
  - (a) the collection and treatment of water for distribution by a person to premises of another person;
  - (b) the distribution of water by a person for supply to premises of another person.
- (2) For subsection (1), the *infrastructure* consists of the following:
  - (a) water storages, mains and treatment plants;
  - (b) pumps, facilities and equipment for distributing water, or monitoring or controlling the distribution of water;
  - (c) pipes or equipment;
  - (d) any other thing ancillary to any other part of the infrastructure.

- (3) A **water network** does not include infrastructure that is outside the network boundary.

## **Division 2.4            Sewerage**

### **13            Sewerage services**

For this Act, each of the following is a **utility service**:

- (a) making a sewerage network available for the provision of sewerage connection services;
- (b) a sewerage connection service;
- (c) a sewerage service.

### **14            Sewerage network**

- (1) For this Act, a **sewerage network** consists of the infrastructure mentioned in subsection (2) used, or for use, in relation to the provision of sewerage services by a person to premises of another person.
- (2) For subsection (1), the **infrastructure** consists of the following:
  - (a) sewage storages, trunk sewers, mains and treatment plants;
  - (b) pumps, facilities and equipment for conveying sewage, or monitoring or controlling the conveyance of sewage;
  - (c) pipes or equipment;
  - (d) any other thing ancillary to any other part of the infrastructure.
- (3) A **sewerage network** does not include infrastructure that is outside the network boundary.

## **Division 2.5                      Miscellaneous**

### **15                      Prescribed utility services**

- (1) The regulations may prescribe—
  - (a) a service related or ancillary to a utility service mentioned in division 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 or 2.4; or
  - (b) a service complementary to the operations of a utility;  
to be a utility service.
- (2) The regulations may prescribe the utility network, and the infrastructure it consists of, for a utility service prescribed by regulations under subsection (1).
- (3) Regulations made for this section may—
  - (a) exempt a person from a stated requirement under this Act; and
  - (b) state the circumstances in which an exemption applies.

### **15A                      Exempt classes of utility services**

- (1) A regulation may exempt a class of utility service from this Act if, after consulting the ICRC and having regard to the matters in subsection (2), the Minister is satisfied on reasonable grounds that—
  - (a) the class of utility service is, either—
    - (i) adequately regulated under another law applying in the ACT; or
    - (ii) not required to be regulated; and
  - (b) exempting the class of utility service will not significantly impede the ICRC achieving its objects under section 3.
- (2) For subsection (1), the Minister must have regard to the following:
  - (a) the nature and kind of utility service;



- (b) the level of risk of—
  - (i) a utility service in the class failing; or
  - (ii) a utility failing to provide a utility service in the class in a safe, reliable and effective way;
- (c) the consequences for consumers, public safety and the environment if—
  - (i) a utility service in the class were to fail; or
  - (ii) a utility were to fail to provide a utility service in the class in a safe, reliable and effective way.

## **17 Customers**

- (1) In this Act:

**customer**, for a utility service, means—

- (a) a person for whom the service is provided under a customer contract; or
- (b) a person who has applied, orally or in writing, to the relevant utility for the service to be provided under a customer contract.

**franchise customer**, in relation to the supply of water to premises, means a customer other than a non-franchise customer for the supply to the premises.

**non-franchise customer**, for the supply of water to premises, means a person who has that status because of a declaration under section 18.

- (2) For subsection (1), definition of **customer**, paragraph (b), an application for a connection or supply service in relation to water or sewerage includes an application by, or for, a person for approval of a plan for plumbing or drainage work to connect premises to the relevant network.

- (3) For this Act, a customer to whom a declaration under section 18 applies is a non-franchise customer for a utility service only in the circumstances to which the declaration relates.

## **18 Declaration of non-franchise customers**

- (1) The Minister may declare a person to be a non-franchise customer in relation to the supply of water to premises.

*Note* Power to make a statutory instrument (including a declaration) includes power to make different provision for different categories (see [Legislation Act](#), s 48).

- (2) A declaration is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **19 Ministerial directions**

- (1) A direction under this section may be given only to ensure the achievement of the objects set out in section 3 (a) to (h).
- (2) The Minister may give a direction to ICRC about the results it must achieve by—

- (a) licence conditions; or
- (b) industry codes.

- (3) A direction may be given generally or in relation to a particular matter.
- (4) ICRC must give effect to the direction as far as practicable.
- (5) A direction is a disallowable instrument.

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **20 Other laws not affected**

- (1) This Act is in addition to, and does not limit, any other Act.
- (2) In particular, nothing in this Act affects the exercise of a function under, or the obligation of a utility to comply with a requirement of or under, any of the following:
  - (a) the *Electricity Safety Act 1971*;
  - (b) the *Emergencies Act 2004*;
  - (c) the *Environment Protection Act 1997*;
  - (d) the *Australian Consumer Law (ACT)*;
  - (e) the *Gas Safety Act 2000*;
  - (f) the *National Gas (ACT) Act 2008*;
  - (g) the *National Gas (ACT) Law*;
  - (h) the *National Gas (ACT) Regulation*;
  - (i) the *Planning Act 2023*;
  - (j) the *Water and Sewerage Act 2000*;
  - (k) the *Water Resources Act 2007*;
  - (l) the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

*Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the Act, including regulations (see [Legislation Act](#), s 104).

## **Part 3                      Licensing of utilities**

### **Division 3.1              General**

#### **21                      Requirement for licence**

- (1) A person must not provide a utility service except in accordance with a licence.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for an individual—3 000 penalty units; or
- (b) for a corporation—\$11 060 000.
- (2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits a separate offence for each day (after the first day) during any part of which the contravention continues.
- (3) An offence against subsection (2) is punishable, on conviction, by a fine not exceeding 600 penalty units.
- (4) To remove any doubt, subsection (1) does not apply to the provision of a utility service by a person as an agent of a utility.

#### **22                      Exemption**

- (1) The Minister may exempt a person from the requirement for a licence in relation to a utility service.

*Note*      Power given under an Act to make a statutory instrument includes power to make different provision for different categories, eg different classes of people or services (see [Legislation Act](#), s 48).

- (2) An exemption is subject to compliance with any condition stated in the instrument of exemption.

- (3) An exemption is a disallowable instrument.

*Note 1* The conditions on an exemption may, for example, require compliance with certain requirements under the Act in relation to safety and technical matters.

*Note 2* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **Division 3.2                      Terms of licences**

### **23                      Licensed utility services**

A licence may be for 1 or more stated utility services, for example—

- (a) in 1 or more areas; or
- (b) for 1 or more classes of people.

### **24                      Duration**

A licence may be in force indefinitely or for a term stated in the licence.

### **25                      General conditions**

- (1) A licence is subject to—
  - (a) the conditions imposed from time to time by this Act; and
  - (b) any other condition stated in the licence by ICRC that is not inconsistent with a requirement of, or under, this Act or any other law of the Territory.
- (2) A licence is subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) that the utility comply with each of the following:
    - (i) any requirement under this Act or a related law;
    - (ii) a requirement under any other law in force in the Territory that applies to the utility in relation to the provision of a utility service;

- (iii) each industry code that applies to the utility;
  - (iv) each technical code that applies to the utility;
  - (v) a direction given to it by ICRC under this Act or a related law;
  - (vi) a technical regulator's direction given under the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014* that applies to the utility;
- (b) that the utility maintains the capacity, as determined in accordance with the relevant technical and prudential criteria adopted by ICRC from time to time under section 26—
  - (i) to comply with the licence conditions; and
  - (ii) to operate a viable business as a licensee;
- (c) that the utility keep all records and documents necessary to enable it to meet any reporting requirement, or any requirement to produce a record or document, under this Act or another condition of its licence;
- (d) that the utility give ICRC, in accordance with any written requirements by ICRC, an annual report for each financial year in relation to—
  - (i) the exercise of its functions under this Act; and
  - (ii) its compliance with the conditions of the licence.

## **26 Technical and prudential criteria**

- (1) ICRC must, in writing, adopt technical and prudential criteria for determining whether a utility, or an applicant for a licence, has the capacity—
  - (a) to comply with licence conditions; and
  - (b) to operate a viable business as licensee.

- (2) ICRC must, on request in writing by a utility, or an applicant or prospective applicant for a licence, give the person particulars of the relevant technical and prudential criteria.
- (3) Section 38 applies to a variation of the criteria adopted in relation to a particular utility in the same way as it applies to a variation of a licence.

## **27 Special conditions—water supply services**

A licence to supply water is, in addition to the conditions mentioned in section 25, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that the utility supply only customers of the kind to which the licence relates;
- (b) if the licence is for supply to franchise customers—that the water is supplied in accordance with the terms of the utility's standard customer contract for the supply (except to the extent that the customer and utility agree to other terms).

## **28 Special conditions—electricity distribution**

- (1) A licence to distribute electricity is, in addition to the conditions mentioned in section 25, subject to the condition that the utility comply with each applicable determination made by ICRC as the jurisdictional regulator under the national electricity rules.
- (2) In this section:

*jurisdictional regulator*—see the [ICRC Act](#), section 4A (4) (National electricity rules—electricity distribution and transmission pricing).

## **32 Rights under licences**

The rights conferred by a licence—

- (a) are subject to the operation of this Act and each related law and, in particular, are subject to a declaration under section 18; and
- (b) are not exclusive, unless the licence provides otherwise.

### **33 Partnerships and other groups**

- (1) A licence granted to a member of a group on behalf of the group is taken to have been granted to the group.
- (2) This Act and each related law apply to the group as if it were a person, but with the following changes:
  - (a) a function that would be exercisable by the group may be exercised by any member;
  - (b) an obligation that would be imposed on the group is imposed instead on each member, but may be discharged by any member;
  - (c) a liability that would be imposed on the group is imposed instead, jointly and severally, on each member;
  - (d) an offence against this Act or a related law that would otherwise be committed by the group is taken to have been committed by each member.
- (3) In a prosecution of a person for an offence that the person is taken to have committed because of subsection (2) (d), it is a defence if the person proves that he or she—
  - (a) did not aid, abet, counsel or procure the relevant act or omission; or
  - (b) was not in any way knowingly concerned in, or party to, the relevant act or omission (whether directly or indirectly and whether by any act or omission of the person).
- (4) If, under this Act or a related law, a document is given to a member of a group, it is taken to have been given to the group.



(5) In this section:

**group** means—

- (a) a partnership under the *Partnership Act 1963*; or
- (b) joint venturers or a consortium, syndicate or other unincorporated body of 2 or more people.

## **Division 3.3                      Licences**

### **34                      Applications for certain licence decisions**

An application for any of the following must be made to ICRC:

- (a) the grant of a licence;
- (b) ICRC's agreement to the transfer of a licence;
- (c) the variation of a licence;
- (d) an exemption from compliance with a licence condition.

*Note 1*    A fee may be determined under s 254 for this section.

*Note 2*    If a form is approved under s 255 for an application, the form must be used.

### **35                      Further information**

- (1) ICRC may, by written notice given to an applicant, require the applicant to give ICRC further stated information or documents that ICRC reasonably requires to determine the application.
- (2) ICRC is not required to determine an application until the applicant complies with the requirement.

## 36 Public consultation

- (1) Before ICRC makes a defined licence decision under this division, it may give public notice, and notice on the ICRC's website, about the matter to be decided and invite submissions about that matter from interested people.

*Note* **Public notice** means notice on an ACT government website or in a daily newspaper circulating in the ACT (see [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1).

- (2) The public notice must—
- (a) state where copies of relevant documents may be inspected; and
  - (b) state—
    - (i) where submissions may be lodged; and
    - (ii) the closing date for submissions, that is at least 28 days after the day the notice is published.
- (3) If ICRC gives public notice under subsection (1) about a defined licence decision, it must not make the decision unless it has—
- (a) allowed the utility a reasonable opportunity—
    - (i) to examine submissions lodged with ICRC in accordance with the public notice; and
    - (ii) to make representations to ICRC about any matter raised in the submissions; and
  - (b) considered the matters raised in all the submissions and representations properly made to ICRC.

(4) In this section:

***defined licence decision*** means a decision to—

- (a) grant a licence under section 37; or
- (b) vary a licence under section 38; or
- (c) exempt a utility under section 39; or
- (d) agree to the transfer of a licence under section 40.

***utility***—

- (a) in relation to the grant of a licence—means the applicant for the licence; and
- (b) in relation to the transfer of a licence—includes the intended transferee.

## **37 Grant**

(1) ICRC may, on application, grant a licence to a person to provide a utility service.

*Note 1* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a grant of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

*Note 2* If ICRC refuses to grant a licence, or grants a licence subject to a condition imposed by it, it must give a reviewable decision notice to the applicant for the licence (see s 43A).

(2) ICRC must grant the licence if satisfied that—

- (a) the applicant has the capacity, as determined in accordance with the relevant technical and prudential criteria adopted by ICRC under section 26—
  - (i) to comply with the licence conditions; and
  - (ii) to operate a viable business as licensee; and
- (b) the applicant satisfies any other requirement that is relevant to ICRC's objects under this Act.

- (3) A licence to provide utility services to franchise customers, whether exclusively or otherwise, may be granted by ICRC only with the written approval of the Minister.

*Note* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a refusal of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

### **38 Variation**

- (1) ICRC may, in writing, vary a utility's licence—
- (a) on application by the utility; or
  - (b) on its own initiative, by written notice given to the utility; or
  - (c) to include a condition on the recommendation of the technical regulator.

*Note 1* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a variation of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

*Note 2* If ICRC refuses to vary a licence, it must give a reviewable decision notice to the licensee (see s 43A).

*Note 3* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (2) ICRC may vary a licence on its own initiative only if ICRC—
- (a) has given the utility reasonable notice of the proposed variation and its reasons for the variation; and
  - (b) has allowed the utility a reasonable opportunity to make representations to ICRC about the proposal; and
  - (c) has taken account of any representation; and
  - (d) is satisfied that the variation is appropriate.

- (3) However, ICRC may vary a licence on its own initiative without complying with subsection (2) (a), (b) and (c) if satisfied that—
- (a) the variation is necessary or convenient—
    - (i) to give effect to a direction by the Minister under section 19; or
    - (ii) following a review of the licence under section 46; or
    - (iii) because of an amendment of an Act or a subordinate law; or
  - (b) the variation—
    - (i) is unlikely to adversely affect anyone; and
    - (ii) would not materially alter the licence.
- (4) The ICRC may vary a utility's licence on the recommendation of the technical regulator only if the ICRC—
- (a) receives written notice from the technical regulator recommending the variation under the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*, section 79; and
  - (b) is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the variation is appropriate.
- (5) A variation takes effect—
- (a) on the day ICRC gives written notice of the variation to the utility; or
  - (b) if the notice specifies a later date of effect—on that day.
- (6) A utility whose licence is varied on application by the utility must pay the determined fee (if any) to ICRC.

## **39 Exemption from licence condition**

- (1) ICRC may, on application and by notice given to a utility, exempt the utility from compliance with a condition of its licence in relation to a stated activity or in stated circumstances.

*Note* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of an exemption from a condition of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

- (2) An exemption may be given in relation to a condition, whether imposed by this Act or by ICRC.
- (3) An exemption—
- (a) must state the period for which it is given; and
  - (b) is subject to any further condition stated in the instrument of exemption.
- (4) This section does not limit ICRC's other powers under this Act in relation to the licence.
- (5) An exemption notice is a disallowable instrument.

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **40 Transfer**

- (1) A licence is transferable only with ICRC's written agreement.

*Note 1* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a transfer of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

*Note 2* If ICRC refuses to agree to the transfer of a licence, it must give a reviewable decision notice to the licensee (see s 43A).

- (2) ICRC may, on application, agree to a transfer of a licence only if satisfied that the intended licensee satisfies the requirements mentioned in section 37 (2) that apply at the time of the transfer.

- (3) A transfer takes effect—
- (a) on the day ICRC gives written notice of its agreement to the licensee; or
  - (b) if the notice provides for a later date of effect—on that day.

*Note* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a refusal to agree to transfer a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

## **41 Surrender**

- (1) A utility may surrender its licence by giving written notice of surrender to ICRC.

*Note* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a surrender of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

- (2) The surrender takes effect—
- (a) 90 days after the day the written notice is given to ICRC; or
  - (b) if ICRC accepts an earlier surrender—on the day ICRC gives written notice of the acceptance to the utility.

## **42 Revocation**

- (1) Before ICRC revokes a licence, it must—
- (a) in writing, give the utility reasonable notice of the proposed revocation and its reasons for the revocation; and
- Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.
- (b) allow the utility a reasonable opportunity to make representations to ICRC; and
  - (c) take account of any representation; and
  - (d) comply with any other requirements about revocation set out in the licence.

(2) ICRC may, in writing, revoke a licence—

(a) if—

- (i) in the past 5 years, the licensee has been convicted of 2 or more offences against this Act (other than a daily offence); and
- (ii) the offences involve a contravention of 1 or more licence conditions; and
- (iii) ICRC is satisfied that each contravention is material to the licensee's continuing operations, having regard to the nature and scope of the activities to which the licence relates; or

(b) if an annual licence fee, or any instalment, remains unpaid more than for 28 days after it is due for payment in accordance with the notice of the relevant determination under section 45.

*Note* Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a revocation of a licence. The notice is a notifiable instrument.

(3) A revocation takes effect—

- (a) on the day ICRC gives a reviewable decision notice about the revocation to the licensee; or
- (b) if the notice provides for a later date of effect—on that day.



## **Division 3.3A      Notification and review of ICRC decisions**

### **43      Meaning of *reviewable decision*—div 3.3A**

In this division:

*reviewable decision* means a decision mentioned in schedule 1, column 3 under a provision of this Act mentioned in column 2 in relation to the decision.

### **43A      Reviewable decision notices**

If a person makes a reviewable decision, the person must give a reviewable decision notice to each entity mentioned in schedule 1, column 4 in relation to the decision.

*Note 1*    The person must also take reasonable steps to give a reviewable decision notice to any other person whose interests are affected by the decision (see [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#), s 67A).

*Note 2*    The requirements for reviewable decision notices are prescribed under the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#).

### **43B      Applications for review**

The following may apply to the ACAT for review of a reviewable decision:

- (a) an entity mentioned in schedule 1, column 4 in relation to the decision;
- (b) any other person whose interests are affected by the decision.

*Note*      If a form is approved under the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#) for the application, the form must be used.

## **Division 3.4                      Annual licence fee**

### **44                      Liability**

- (1) A person to whom a licence is granted must pay the annual licence fee to ICRC for each financial year, or part of a financial year, in which the licence is in force.
- (2) The fee is payable in accordance with the notice of the relevant determination under section 45.

### **45                      Determination of fee**

- (1) ICRC may determine the annual licence fee payable by each utility.  
*Note*            Under s 52, the ICRC must prepare a notice of a determination of annual licence fees. The notice is a notifiable instrument.
- (2) The annual licence fee for a particular utility is the amount considered by ICRC to be a reasonable contribution towards the costs incurred, or expected to be incurred—
  - (a) by the following in the exercise of functions, in the ACT or elsewhere, in relation to utility services:
    - (i) ICRC;
    - (ii) the technical regulator on behalf of the Territory; and
  - (b) by the ACAT in hearing and deciding matters to which a utility is a party.
- (3) The matters that ICRC must have regard to when working out the costs mentioned in subsection (2) include, for example—
  - (a) the extent of those costs in relation to each utility; and
  - (b) the annual licence fees payable by all utilities; and
  - (c) the relative scope and nature of the services provided by all utilities.

- (4) A determination must be in writing stating the following matters:
- (a) ICRC's findings on the matters mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) in relation to the relevant utility;
  - (b) the amount of the fee and the way it is worked out;
  - (c) ICRC's reasons for the amount of the fee and any instalment;
  - (d) how the fee is to be paid (for example, as a lump sum, or by instalments).
- (5) ICRC must give to a utility—
- (a) a copy of the determination of each annual licence fee payable by the utility; and
  - (b) written notice stating when the fee, or any instalment, is due for payment.
- Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.
- (6) The day on which an annual licence fee, or any instalment, is due for payment must be at least 28 days after the day the notice is given to the relevant utility.
- (7) In this section:
- costs** does not include—
- (a) costs payable by a utility under the [ICRC Act](#); and
  - (b) any fees, charges, costs or other amounts prescribed under the regulations for this definition.

**Example for par (a)**

costs of an investigation on an industry reference into a regulated industry under the [ICRC Act](#), s 19

## Division 3.5                      Review and enforcement

### 46                      Review of licence conditions

- (1) ICRC may review a licence at any time to determine whether the licence conditions are appropriate for achieving ICRC's objects under this Act.

- (2) ICRC must give public notice of a proposed review.

*Note*                      **Public notice** means notice on an ACT government website or in a daily newspaper circulating in the ACT (see [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1).

- (3) The notice must state the following matters:

- (a) ICRC's objects under this Act;
- (b) the purpose of the review;
- (c) the identity of the utility;
- (d) the utility services to which the licence relates;
- (e) where a copy of the licence may be inspected;
- (f) where submissions in relation to the review should be lodged;
- (g) the closing date for submissions, that is at least 28 days after the day on which the notice is published.

- (4) For a review, ICRC must ensure that the utility has a reasonable opportunity—

- (a) to examine submissions lodged with ICRC in accordance with the public notice; and
- (b) to make representations to ICRC about any matter raised in the submissions.

- (5) ICRC must not finish a review unless it has—
- (a) given the utility and each person who made a submission in accordance with the public notice a written statement of its expected findings and supporting reasons and the action (if any) that ICRC proposes to take because of the review; and
  - (b) allowed the utility and each such person a reasonable opportunity to make further representations to ICRC; and
  - (c) considered the matters raised in all the submissions and representations duly made to ICRC.
- (6) When ICRC finishes a review, it must—
- (a) give the utility a written statement of its findings and supporting reasons and the action (if any) taken by ICRC because of the review; and
  - (b) give public notice of the findings of the review and the place where a record of the statement is available for public inspection.

*Note*     **Public notice** means notice on an ACT government website or in a daily newspaper circulating in the ACT (see [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1).

## **47            Contravention of licence condition**

- (1) A utility must not, without reasonable excuse, contravene a condition of its licence.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for an individual—3 000 penalty units; or
  - (b) for a corporation—\$11 060 000.
- (2) A utility that, without reasonable excuse, contravenes a condition of its licence commits a separate offence for each day (after the first day) during any part of which the contravention continues without reasonable excuse.

- (3) An offence against subsection (2) is punishable, on conviction, by a fine not exceeding 600 penalty units.

#### **48 Directions about licence condition**

- (1) This section applies if ICRC is satisfied that a utility has contravened, or is likely to contravene, a condition of its licence.
- (2) ICRC may give a direction under this section only if it has taken reasonable steps to consult the utility concerned about the giving of the direction.
- (3) ICRC may give a written direction to the utility to take action stated in the direction to ensure compliance with the condition, including action—
  - (a) to rectify the contravention; or
  - (b) to avoid the likely contravention.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

#### **49 Directions about accounts and records**

- (1) If ICRC is satisfied that it is necessary or convenient to do so in relation to the exercise of its functions under the [ICRC Act](#), part 3, 4, 4A or 4B, ICRC may give a written direction to a utility about the keeping of accounts and records in relation to the utility's functions under this Act.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.
- (2) A direction may require the utility, for example, to do 1 or more of the following:
  - (a) to set up and maintain separate accounts for a stated activity;
  - (b) to set up and maintain a consolidated set of accounts for a stated activity;
  - (c) to apportion costs shared between different activities in a stated way;

- (d) to deal with information about its functions under this Act in a stated way;
- (e) to keep records of a stated class;
- (f) to maintain accounts or records in a stated way.

## **50 Contravention of direction**

- (1) A utility must not, without reasonable excuse, contravene a direction under section 48 or 49.

Maximum penalty: 2 000 penalty units.

- (2) A utility that, without reasonable excuse, contravenes a direction under section 48 or 49 commits a separate offence for each day (after the first day) during any part of which the contravention continues without reasonable excuse.
- (3) An offence against subsection (2) is punishable, on conviction, by a fine not exceeding 200 penalty units.

## **Division 3.6 Miscellaneous**

### **51 Protection of personal information**

- (1) This section applies to personal information gained by a utility in relation to the provision of a utility service.
- (2) A utility, when dealing with personal information, must comply with—
  - (a) the Australian Privacy Principles; and
  - (b) the [Privacy Act](#), part 3A (Credit reporting); and
  - (c) the registered CR code.
- (3) In this section:

*Australian Privacy Principles* means the Australian Privacy Principles under the [Privacy Act](#), schedule 1.

**Privacy Act** means the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cwlth).

**registered CR code**—see the [Privacy Act](#), section 26M.

*Note* The **registered CR code** is a written code of practice about credit reporting registered under the [Privacy Act](#).

## 52 Public notice of licence decisions

- (1) ICRC must prepare a notice of each of the following matters as soon as possible after it happens:
  - (a) the grant of a utility licence under section 37 (Grant);
  - (b) the refusal of a utility licence under section 37 (Grant);
  - (c) the variation of a utility licence under section 38 (Variation);
  - (d) an exemption from compliance with a utility licence condition under section 39 (Exemption from licence condition);
  - (e) ICRC's agreement to the transfer of a utility licence under section 40 (Transfer);
  - (f) ICRC's refusal to agree to the transfer of a utility licence under section 40 (Transfer);
  - (g) the surrender of a utility licence under section 41 (Surrender);
  - (h) the revocation of a utility licence under section 42 (Revocation);
  - (i) the determination of an annual licence fee for a utility under section 45 (Determination of fee).
- (2) The notice must include a statement about the rights available under section 53 in relation to documents about the matter.
- (3) The notice is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).



**53 Public access to licences etc**

- (1) ICRC must make copies of each of the documents mentioned in subsection (2) available for inspection by members of the public—
  - (a) during ordinary office hours at the office of ICRC; and
  - (b) at any other place determined by ICRC; and
  - (c) on ICRC's web site on the Internet.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to each of the following documents:
  - (a) each utility licence;
  - (b) a record of each of the following decisions by ICRC:
    - (i) to grant a utility licence;
    - (ii) to refuse to grant a utility licence;
    - (iii) to vary a utility licence;
    - (iv) the determination of an annual licence fee;
    - (v) to grant an exemption from compliance with a licence condition;
    - (vi) to agree to the transfer of a utility licence;
    - (vii) to refuse to agree to the transfer of a utility licence;
    - (viii) to revoke a utility licence;
  - (c) ICRC's findings on a review under section 46, and its supporting reasons;
  - (d) the notice of the surrender of a licence.
- (3) A person may—
  - (a) without charge, inspect a document made available in accordance with subsection (1); and

- (b) make a copy of all or part of the document, during ordinary office hours, at ICRC's office.

*Note* A fee may be determined under s 254 for par (b).

- (4) If a person requests that a copy be made available in electronic form, ICRC may provide the relevant information—
  - (a) on a data storage device; or
  - (b) by electronic transmission.
- (5) The [ICRC Act](#), section 46 does not apply to a document mentioned in subsection (2).

## **54 Annual reports—technical and environmental matters**

- (1) As soon as practicable after ICRC receives an annual report by a utility in accordance with the licence condition mentioned in section 25 (2) (d), it must—
  - (a) give a copy of the technical section of the report to the technical regulator; and
  - (b) give a copy of the environmental section of the report to—
    - (i) the environment protection authority; and
    - (ii) the director-general responsible for the [Water Resources Act 2007](#).
- (2) For this section—
  - (a) the technical section of the report is the part concerning the utility's compliance with the requirements under this Act in relation to technical codes; and
  - (b) the environmental section of the report is the part concerning the utility's compliance with the requirements under this Act in relation to the protection of the environment.

- (3) Without limiting the requirements mentioned in section 25 (2) (d), ICRC may, in writing, require a utility to prepare annual reports with separate technical and environmental sections.

## Part 3A Energy industry levy

*Note 1* This part is a tax law under the [Taxation Administration Act 1999](#). As a tax law, this part is subject to provisions of the [Taxation Administration Act 1999](#) about the administration and enforcement of tax laws generally.

*Note 2* This part applies to NERL retailers (see s 75B).

### 54A Definitions—pt 3A

In this part:

*administrator*—see section 54N.

*base amount*—see section 54G (3).

*determined* means determined by the administrator under this part.

*energy industry sector*—see section 54D (1).

*energy utility*—see section 54D (2).

*energy utility service*—see section 54D (3).

*levy* means the levy under section 54C.

*levy year*—see section 54C (1).

*local regulatory cost*—see section 54F (1).

*national regulatory cost*—see section 54E (2).

*national regulatory obligations*—see section 54E (1).

*net regulatory cost*—see section 54G (2).

*regulatory cost*—see section 54G (1).

*year* means financial year.

**54B Purpose—pt 3A**

The purpose of this part is to impose a levy on energy utilities to recover the amount of the Territory's national regulatory costs, and local regulatory costs, in relation to the energy industry sectors.

**54C Energy industry levy—imposition**

- (1) If an energy utility provides an energy utility service in an energy industry sector at any time during a year (the *levy year*), the utility is liable to pay a levy in relation to the net regulatory cost for that year.
- (2) The levy for the levy year is worked out as follows:

$$B + EV + (AV - EV_{-1})$$

where:

*AV* means the actual variable amount for the energy utility for the previous levy year worked out as follows:

$$(ANR - (B_{-1} \times NC_{-1})) \times M_{-1}$$

*B* is the base amount for the levy year determined under section 54GA (2).

*EV* means the estimated variable amount for the energy utility for the levy year worked out as follows:

$$(ENR - (B \times NC)) \times M_{-1}$$

*EV<sub>-1</sub>* means the estimated variable amount for the energy utility for the previous levy year worked out as follows:

$$(ENR_{-1} - (B_{-1} \times NC_{-1})) \times M_{-2}$$

- (3) If an energy utility does not provide an energy utility service in an energy industry sector in the levy year, but provided an energy utility service in the sector in the previous year—
  - (a) *B* is taken to be zero in relation to the utility for the levy year; and

- (b) EV is taken to be zero in relation to the utility for the levy year.
- (4) If an energy utility provides an energy utility service in an energy industry sector in the levy year, but did not provide an energy utility service in the sector in the previous year—
  - (a) AV is taken to be zero in relation to the utility for the levy year; and
  - (b) EV<sub>-1</sub> is taken to be zero in relation to the utility for the levy year.
- (5) In this section:

**ANR** means the actual net regulatory cost for the energy industry sector for the previous levy year determined under section 54GA (1) (b).

**B<sub>-1</sub>** means the base amount for the previous levy year determined under section 54GA (2).

**ENR** means the estimated net regulatory cost for the energy industry sector for the levy year determined under section 54GA (1) (a).

**ENR<sub>-1</sub>** means the estimated net regulatory cost for the energy industry sector for the previous levy year determined under section 54GA (1) (a).

**market share**, for an energy utility for a levy year means—

- (a) for an electricity distributor—the total number of megawatt hours of electricity distributed in the ACT by the distributor in that year, divided by the total number of megawatt hours of electricity distributed in the ACT in that year; and
- (b) for an NERL retailer that supplies electricity—the total number of megawatt hours of electricity sold in the ACT by the retailer in that year, divided by the total number of megawatt hours of electricity sold in the ACT in that year; and

- (c) for a gas distributor—the total number of megajoules of gas distributed in the ACT by the distributor in that year, divided by the total number of megajoules of gas distributed in the ACT in that year; and
- (d) for an NERL retailer that supplies gas—the total number of megajoules of gas sold in the ACT by the retailer in that year, divided by the total number of megajoules of gas sold in the ACT in that year.

***M<sub>-1</sub>*** means the market share of the energy utility for the previous levy year.

*Note* Before 1 October in a levy year, the administrator must determine, for the year before the levy year, the total number of megawatt hours of electricity or megajoules of gas distributed or sold in the ACT by all energy utilities in each energy sector in the year (see s 54H (1) (b) (ii)).

***M<sub>-2</sub>*** means the market share of the energy utility for the levy year before the previous levy year.

***NC***, for an energy industry sector for a levy year, means the number of energy utilities that provided an energy utility service in the sector before 30 August in the levy year as determined under section 54H (1) (a).

***NC<sub>-1</sub>***, for an energy industry sector for a levy year, means the number of energy utilities that provided an energy utility service in the sector at any time during the previous levy year as determined under section 54H (1) (b) (i).

## **54D Energy industry sectors etc**

- (1) For this part, each of the following is an ***energy industry sector***:
  - (a) the electricity distribution sector;
  - (b) the electricity supply sector;
  - (c) the gas distribution sector;

- (d) the gas supply sector;
  - (e) an energy industry sector prescribed by regulation.
- (2) For this part, an **energy utility** is a utility that provides, or has provided, an energy utility service.
- (3) For this part, an **energy utility service** is any of the following:
  - (a) electricity distribution;
  - (b) electricity supply;
  - (c) gas distribution;
  - (d) gas supply.

- (4) In this section:

**electricity distribution** means the distribution of electricity through an electricity network.

**electricity supply** means the supply of electricity from an electricity network to premises for consumption.

**gas distribution** means the distribution of gas through a gas distribution network.

**gas supply** means the supply of gas from a gas distribution network to premises for consumption.

## **54E National regulatory obligations and costs**

- (1) For this part, the **national regulatory obligations** are the Territory's obligations under the AEMA in relation to—
  - (a) cost-sharing arrangements for funding the AEMC in relation to the exercise of its functions; and
  - (b) the Ministerial Council's responsibilities under the AEMA.



- (2) For this part, the ***national regulatory cost*** for a year is the amount determined under this section to be the cost to the Territory of meeting its national regulatory obligations for the year.
- (3) The administrator must, before 1 October in the levy year, in accordance with this section, determine—
  - (a) the estimated national regulatory cost to be applied to each energy industry sector for the levy year; and
  - (b) the actual national regulatory cost to be applied to each energy industry sector for the year before the levy year.
- (4) In determining the estimated national regulatory cost to be applied to an energy industry sector for a levy year, the administrator must—
  - (a) consider the following:
    - (i) the AEMC's budget, or draft budget, for its functions for the year;
    - (ii) the Ministerial Council's budget, or draft budget, for its functions under the AEMA for the year;
    - (iii) the amount, if any, allocated for the AEMC and Ministerial Council by the Territory for the year;
    - (iv) the annual costs incurred by the AEMC and Ministerial Council in previous years in relation to the ACT;
    - (v) the annual costs incurred by the Territory in previous years for activities undertaken by the AEMC and Ministerial Council; and
  - (b) apportion the estimated national regulatory cost between energy industry sectors having regard to the costs attributable to each sector.

- (5) In determining the actual national regulatory cost to be applied to an energy industry sector for the year before the levy year, the administrator must—
- (a) consider the amount payable by the Territory for its national regulatory obligations for the previous year; and
  - (b) apportion the actual national regulatory cost between energy industry sectors having regard to the costs attributable to each sector.

- (6) A determination under this section is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

- (7) In this section:

***AEMA*** means the Australian Energy Market Agreement 2004, as amended in 2006, between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

***AEMC*** means the Australian Energy Market Commission under the [Australian Energy Market Commission Establishment Act 2004](#) (SA).

***Ministerial Council*** means a body (however described) that consists of the Minister of the Commonwealth, and the Minister of each State and Territory, who is responsible, or principally responsible, for matters relating to energy.

## **54F Local regulatory costs**

- (1) For this part, the ***local regulatory cost*** for a year is the amount determined by the administrator to be the cost to the Territory of—
- (a) providing regulatory activities in relation to safety, technical operations, consumer service and environmental behaviour for energy utility services; and
  - (b) the administration of the levy.

- (2) The administrator must, before 1 October in the levy year, in accordance with this section, determine—
  - (a) the estimated local regulatory cost to be applied to each energy industry sector for the levy year; and
  - (b) the actual local regulatory cost to be applied to each energy industry sector for the year before the levy year.
- (3) In determining the estimated local regulatory cost for an energy industry sector for a levy year, the administrator must—
  - (a) consider the following:
    - (i) the budget, or draft budget, for local regulatory activities for the year;
    - (ii) the costs incurred in previous years for local regulatory activities; and
  - (b) apportion the estimated local regulatory cost between energy industry sectors having regard to the costs attributable to each sector.
- (4) In determining the actual local regulatory cost for an energy industry sector for a year before a levy year, the administrator must apportion the actual local regulatory cost between energy industry sectors having regard to the costs attributable to each sector.
- (5) A determination under this section is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **54G Annual regulatory costs etc**

- (1) For this part, the ***regulatory cost*** for an energy industry sector for a year is the sum of the amounts determined by the administrator to be—
  - (a) the ***national regulatory cost*** to be applied to the sector for the year; and

- (b) the **local regulatory cost** to be applied to the sector for the year.
- (2) For this part, the **net regulatory cost** for an energy industry sector for a year is the regulatory cost for the sector for the year less the total amount of annual licence fees determined under section 45 (Determination of fee) for all energy utilities in the sector for the year.
- (3) For this part, the **base amount** for an energy industry sector is the minimum additional cost of regulating 1 more energy utility in the energy industry sector for a period of 1 year.

#### **54GA Regulatory cost—determinations**

- (1) The administrator must, before 1 October in a levy year, determine—
  - (a) the estimated net regulatory cost to be applied to each energy industry sector for the levy year; and
  - (b) the actual net regulatory cost to be applied to each energy industry sector for the previous levy year.
- (2) The administrator must, before 1 October in a year and every 5 years after the first determination, determine the base amount for an energy industry sector.
- (3) The administrator may amend a determination under subsection (2) in extraordinary circumstances.

##### **Example—extraordinary circumstances**

A large number of energy utilities unexpectedly enter the energy industry sector.

- (4) A determination under this section is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

**54H Further energy sector determinations**

- (1) For this part, the administrator must, before 1 October in the levy year, determine the following:
  - (a) for the levy year—the number of energy utilities that provided an energy utility service in each energy utility sector at any time before 30 August in the year;
  - (b) for the year before the levy year—
    - (i) the number of energy utilities that provided an energy utility service in each energy industry sector at any time during the year; and
    - (ii) having regard to statements lodged under section 54I, the total number of megawatt hours of electricity or megajoules of gas distributed or sold in the ACT by all energy utilities in each energy industry sector in the year.
- (2) A determination under this section is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

**54I Production of distribution and sales information**

- (1) An energy utility must lodge a statement for a levy year if the utility provided an energy utility service in the ACT at any time before 30 August in the levy year or during the previous year.
- (2) The statement for a year must—
  - (a) be in writing; and
  - (b) be lodged with the administrator not later than 30 August in the year; and
  - (c) state—
    - (i) for an electricity distributor—the total number of megawatt hours of electricity distributed by the distributor in the ACT in the previous year; and

- (ii) for a NERL retailer that supplies electricity—the total number of megawatt hours of electricity sold by the retailer in the ACT in the previous year; and
- (iii) for a gas distributor—the total number of megajoules of gas distributed by the distributor in the ACT in the previous year; and
- (iv) for a NERL retailer that supplies gas—the total number of megajoules of gas sold by the retailer in the ACT in the previous year; and
- (v) the way the energy utility calculated the number of megawatt hours or megajoules mentioned in subparagraphs (i) to (iv).

*Note* It is an offence to make a false or misleading statement, give false or misleading information or produce a false or misleading document (see [Criminal Code](#), pt 3.4).

## **54J Production of relevant information etc**

- (1) The administrator may, by written notice given to an energy utility, require the utility to give the administrator relevant information or documents that the administrator reasonably requires for this part.

*Note* The [Legislation Act](#), s 170 and s 171 deal with the application of the privilege against self-incrimination and client legal privilege.

- (2) The notice must state—
  - (a) the information or document required by the administrator; and
  - (b) where or how the information or document is to be given to the administrator; and
  - (c) when the information or document must be given to the administrator.

- (3) An energy utility commits an offence if the utility contravenes a requirement of a notice given to the utility under subsection (1).

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

**54K Registration of energy utilities**

- (1) The commissioner for revenue must register an energy utility if the utility—
- (a) provides an energy utility service in the ACT; and
  - (b) has applied to the commissioner for registration as an energy utility.
- (2) The commissioner for revenue must tell the administrator about the registration of an energy utility under subsection (1).

**54L Offence—failure to register**

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
- (a) the person becomes an energy utility; and
  - (b) the person does not apply to the commissioner for revenue to be registered as an energy utility within 90 days after the day the person becomes an energy utility.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (2) Strict liability applies to subsection (1) (a).

**54M Returns under Taxation Administration Act**

- (1) An energy utility must lodge a return for a levy year if the utility provided an energy utility service in the ACT at any time—
- (a) before 1 October in the year; or
  - (b) during the previous year.

- (2) The return for a year must—
- (a) be in writing; and
  - (b) be lodged with the commissioner for revenue not later than the return deadline; and
  - (c) state—
    - (i) for an electricity distributor—the total number of megawatt hours of electricity distributed by the distributor in the ACT in the previous year; and
    - (ii) for a NERL retailer that supplies electricity—the total number of megawatt hours of electricity sold by the retailer in the ACT in the previous year; and
    - (iii) for a gas distributor—the total number of megajoules of gas distributed by the distributor in the ACT in the previous year; and
    - (iv) for a NERL retailer that supplies gas—the total number of megajoules of gas sold by the retailer in the ACT in the previous year; and
    - (v) the way the energy utility calculated the number of megawatt hours or megajoules mentioned in subparagraphs (i) to (iv).

*Note* It is an offence to make a false or misleading statement, give false or misleading information or produce a false or misleading document (see [Criminal Code](#), pt 3.4).

- (3) In this section:
- return deadline***, for a return for a year, means—
- (a) 31 October in the year; or
  - (b) if the deadline is extended under the [Taxation Administration Act 1999](#), section 40—the date by which the return must be lodged under that section.



**54N Levy administrator**

The Minister may appoint a public servant to be the *administrator* for this part.

*Note 1* For the making of appointments (including acting appointments), see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.3.

*Note 2* In particular, an appointment may be made by naming a person or nominating the occupant of a position (see [Legislation Act](#), s 207).

*Note 3* A person's appointment also ends if the person resigns (see [Legislation Act](#), s 210).

**54O Administrator to publish information**

The administrator must publish the following information:

- (a) an explanation of the purpose of the energy industry levy;
- (b) an explanation of how the energy industry levy is calculated;
- (c) an annual statement about the data relied on by the administrator to determine—
  - (i) national regulatory costs under section 54E; and
  - (ii) local regulatory costs under section 54F; and
  - (iii) net regulatory costs under section 54G; and
  - (iv) base amounts under section 54G;
- (d) an outline of the administrative practices adopted by the administrator in administering the energy industry levy;
- (e) an explanation of the obligations of energy utilities in relation to the energy industry levy under the Act.

## Part 4 Industry codes

*Note* This part applies to NERL retailers (see s 75B).

### 55 Contents

- (1) An industry code may set out practices, standards and other matters about the provision of a utility service.
- (2) An industry code may deal, for example, with 1 or more of the following matters:
  - (a) network boundaries;
  - (b) connections to a network;
  - (c) a GSL scheme within the meaning of the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*;
  - (d) other utility service standards;
  - (e) the protection of customers and consumers;
  - (f) the metering of utility services;
  - (g) the provision of utility services generally;
  - (h) the termination or interruption of utility services;
  - (i) disconnections from a network;
  - (j) arrangements between licensed distributors and suppliers concerning the use of a network;
  - (k) the development of a network.

*Note* An industry code may also deal with electricity pricing information for certain customers—see s 75GA.

- (3) An industry code may deal with a matter by stating requirements to be dealt with by the terms of a standard customer contract for a utility service.

- (4) An industry code may apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without change) an instrument as in force from time to time.

*Note 1* A statutory instrument may also apply, adopt or incorporate (with or without change) a law or instrument as in force at a particular time (see [Legislation Act](#), s 47 (1)).

*Note 2* If a statutory instrument applies, adopts or incorporates a law or instrument may be taken to be a notifiable instrument that must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#) (see s 47 (2) to (6)).

*Note 3* A reference to an instrument includes a reference to a provision of an instrument (see [Legislation Act](#), s 14 (2)).

## **56 Application**

- (1) For this Act, an industry code applies to a utility (other than a NERL retailer) if it applies to the provision of utility services of a kind that the utility is licensed to provide.
- (2) For this Act, an industry code applies to a NERL retailer if a determination under section 56A provides that it applies to the retailer.
- (3) An industry code may apply to—
- (a) a utility service of a stated class or utility services generally; or
  - (b) a stated utility, a utility of a stated class or utilities generally;
- and may make different provisions for different classes of services or utilities.
- (4) An industry code has no effect to the extent of any inconsistency with this Act, a related law or a technical code.

**56A NERL retailers—determination of application of code**

- (1) The ICRC may determine that an industry code applies to a NERL retailer if the ICRC is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is appropriate for the code to apply to the retailer.

*Note* Power to make a statutory instrument (including a disallowable instrument) includes power to make different provision for different categories (see [Legislation Act](#), s 48).

- (2) A determination is a disallowable instrument.

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

**57 Draft codes**

- (1) ICRC must consider a draft industry code submitted for approval by—
- (a) a utility; or
  - (b) a person whom ICRC is satisfied represents a utility or 2 or more utilities.

- (2) ICRC may give a written direction to a utility to submit a draft industry code about a stated matter to ICRC for consideration.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) A utility must comply with a direction within the period stated in the direction, being a period that ICRC is satisfied is reasonable in the circumstances.

**58 Approved codes**

- (1) ICRC may—
  - (a) approve; or
  - (b) refuse to approve;an industry code a draft of which has been submitted in accordance with section 57.
- (2) ICRC may approve an industry code only if—
  - (a) it has consulted the Minister, and the Minister responsible for the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*, in relation to the code; and
  - (b) is satisfied that—
    - (i) the code is not inconsistent in material respects with another industry code or a technical code; and
    - (ii) the requirements of section 60 for public consultation have been satisfied; and
    - (iii) the code is appropriate.
- (3) ICRC must give the proponent of a draft industry code submitted in accordance with section 57 written notice of its decision on the draft code.
- (4) If ICRC refuses to approve an industry code, the notice of the decision must set out the reasons for the refusal and may—
  - (a) state any matter that ICRC is satisfied requires further consideration or development; and
  - (b) require the proponent to submit a further draft industry code to ICRC for consideration.
- (5) If subsection (4) (b) applies, the notice must state the period, that ICRC is satisfied is reasonable in the circumstances, within which the further draft industry code is to be submitted.

- (6) ICRC must, as soon as practicable, give a copy of each approved code to each utility to which the code would apply.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

## **59 Determined codes**

- (1) ICRC may determine an industry code if it—
- (a) has consulted the Minister, and the Minister responsible for the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), in relation to the code; and
  - (b) is satisfied that—
    - (i) the code is not inconsistent in material respects with another industry code or a technical code; and
    - (ii) it is necessary or convenient to determine the code.
- (2) ICRC may determine an industry code, for example, in the following circumstances:
- (a) if a utility fails to submit a draft industry code in accordance with a direction under section 57;
  - (b) the proponent of a draft industry code fails to submit a further draft of the code in accordance with a requirement in a notice of refusal under section 58;
  - (c) ICRC is satisfied that a draft industry code submitted for consideration or approval is not appropriate;
  - (d) to give effect to a direction by the Minister under section 19.
- (3) ICRC must, as soon as practicable, give a copy of each determined code to each utility to which the code would apply.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

**60 Public consultation**

- (1) Before ICRC approves or determines an industry code, it must—
  - (a) give public notice that—
    - (i) states that the draft code has been prepared; and
    - (ii) states the place or places where copies of the draft code may be inspected or obtained; and
    - (iii) invites interested people to make submissions to ICRC about the draft code within the period stated in the notice.
  - Note* **Public notice** means notice on an ACT government website or in a daily newspaper circulating in the ACT (see [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1).
  - (b) make copies of the draft code available for public inspection in accordance with the notice.
- (2) The period stated in the notice must run for at least 30 days after the publication of the notice.
- (3) ICRC must have due regard to any submission made in accordance with the notice when approving or determining the industry code.

**61 Variation**

- (1) ICRC may approve, or determine, a variation of an industry code and, for that purpose, the other sections of this part apply to the variation, subject to subsections (2) and (3), in the same way as they apply to a new industry code.
- (2) ICRC may approve a variation of an industry code under section 58 without the public consultation required by section 60 if—
  - (a) apart from the proponent, each utility to which the code applies has given ICRC written notice of its agreement to the variation; or

- (b) ICRC is satisfied that the variation is necessary or convenient—
    - (i) to give effect to a direction by the Minister under section 19; or
    - (ii) following a review of a licence under section 46; or
    - (iii) because of an amendment of an Act or a subordinate law; or
  - (c) ICRC is satisfied that the variation is unlikely to adversely affect anyone and would not materially alter the code.
- (3) ICRC may determine a variation of an industry code under section 59 on its own initiative, without the public consultation required by section 60, in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (2) (b) or (c).

## **62 Notification and disallowance of codes etc**

Each of the following is a disallowable instrument:

- (a) an industry code approved under section 58 (Approved codes);
- (b) an industry code determined under section 59 (Determined codes);
- (c) the variation of an industry code approved or determined under section 61 (Variation).

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **63 Public access**

- (1) ICRC must make copies of each of the documents mentioned in subsection (2) available for public inspection during ordinary office hours, at the office of ICRC and any other place determined by ICRC.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to each of the following documents:
  - (a) each industry code;



- (b) a record of each of the following decisions by ICRC:
  - (i) to approve an industry code;
  - (ii) to refuse to approve an industry code, a draft of which has been submitted to ICRC for consideration;
  - (iii) to determine an industry code;
  - (iv) to approve, or determine, a variation of an industry code.
- (3) A person may inspect, or make a copy of, all or part of a document mentioned in subsection (2).

*Note* A fee may be determined under s 254 for this subsection.
- (4) If a person requests that a copy be made available in electronic form, ICRC may provide the relevant information—
  - (a) on a data storage device; or
  - (b) by electronic transmission.
- (5) The [ICRC Act](#), section 46 does not apply to a document mentioned in subsection (2).

## Part 5A                      NERL retailers and NERL exempt sellers

### Division 5A.1              Preliminary

#### 75                      Meaning of *NERL retailer*

In this Act:

*NERL retailer* means a person who holds a retailer authorisation under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*.

#### 75A                      Meaning of *NERL exempt seller*

(1) In this Act:

*NERL exempt seller* means a person who is exempted by the AER under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)* from the requirement to hold a retailer authorisation.

(2) In this section:

*AER* means the Australian Energy Regulator established under the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cwlth), section 44AE (Establishment of the AER).

#### 75B                      Application of Act to NERL retailers

(1) The relevant parts of this Act apply in relation to a NERL retailer as if—

- (a) a reference to a utility were a reference to a NERL retailer; and
- (b) for the relevant parts of this Act other than part 4 (Industry codes)—a reference to a utility service were a reference to the activity of selling electricity or gas to a person for premises; and

- (c) for part 4—a reference to a utility service were a reference to the activity of selling electricity or gas to a person for premises, and included the action required by a NERL retailer under the *Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008*, section 6 (3) (Feed-in from renewable energy generators to electricity network); and
  - (d) a reference to a customer were a reference to a customer under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*; and
  - (e) any other necessary changes were made.
- (2) In this section:
- relevant parts*, of this Act, mean the following:
- (a) part 3A (Energy industry levy);
  - (b) part 4 (Industry codes);
  - (c) part 10 (Enforcement);
  - (d) part 11 (Certain causes of action against customer);
  - (e) part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities);
  - (f) part 13 (Community service obligations).

## **75C Application of Act to NERL exempt sellers**

- (1) The relevant parts of this Act apply in relation to a NERL exempt seller as if—
- (a) a reference to a utility were a reference to a NERL exempt seller; and
  - (b) a reference to a utility service were a reference to the activity of selling electricity or gas to a person for premises; and
  - (c) a reference to a customer were a reference to a customer under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*; and
  - (d) any other necessary changes were made.

(2) In this section:

*relevant parts*, of this Act, mean the following:

- (a) part 10 (Enforcement);
- (b) part 11 (Certain causes of action against customer);
- (c) part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities).

## **75D Inconsistency between Act and NERL**

- (1) The *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)* prevails if there is an inconsistency between this Act in its application to a NERL retailer or NERL exempt seller and that Law.

*Note 1* A reference to the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)* includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under that Law, including the *National Energy Retail Regulation (ACT)* and the national energy retail rules (see [National Energy Retail Law \(ACT\) Act 2012](#), s 9 (2) and [Legislation Act](#), s 104).

*Note 2* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the Act, including any regulation (see [Legislation Act](#), s 104).

- (2) This Act is taken to be consistent with that Law to the extent that it is capable of operating concurrently with that Law.

## **Division 5A.2 NERL retailer obligations**

### **Subdivision 5A.2.1 Greenpower**

#### **75E Greenpower obligations—general**

- (1) A NERL retailer must—
- (a) first offer a greenpower product to a person who proposes to purchase electricity for premises from the retailer; and
  - (b) have a greenpower product available for purchase by its customers to whom it sells or supplies electricity.

- (2) Subsection (1) (a) does not apply to a NERL retailer in relation to—
- (a) a person for whom the retailer is acting as designated RoLR in relation to a RoLR event under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*; or
  - (b) a person who is a move-in customer or carry-over customer; or
  - (c) a transaction with a person if the retailer must obtain the person's explicit informed consent for the transaction under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 38 (Requirement for explicit informed consent for certain transactions).
- (3) If a small customer stops, or proposes to stop, purchasing a greenpower product from a NERL retailer, the retailer must not impose a charge (however described) on the small customer in relation to the cessation.

- (4) In this section:

**carry-over customer**—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 2 (1).

**customer**—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 5.

**designated RoLR**—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 122.

**greenpower product**—see the *National GreenPower Accreditation Program: Program Rules*, Appendix D (Definition of Terms), made by the National GreenPower Steering Group, as in force from time to time.

*Note* The *National GreenPower Accreditation Program: Program Rules* are accessible at [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au).

**move-in customer**—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 2 (1).

**RoLR event**, in relation to a retailer—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 122.

*small customer*—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 5.

## **75F Greenpower obligations—information on bills**

- (1) If a customer purchases a greenpower product from a NERL retailer, the retailer must include greenpower information on each bill issued by the retailer to the customer.
- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply if the information is not reasonably available to the retailer.
- (3) In this section:

*customer*—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 5 (Meaning of customer and associated terms).

*greenpower information*, in relation to a customer, means information about the amount of electricity (stated as a percentage or otherwise) used or purchased by the customer that relates to the customer's greenpower product.

*greenpower product*—see section 75E (4).

*Note* See the national energy retail rules, r 25 (Contents of bills (SRC and MRC)).

## **75G Exemption from greenpower obligations**

- (1) The Minister may exempt a NERL retailer from having to comply with section 75E (Greenpower obligations—general) or section 75F (Greenpower obligations—information on bills) if the Minister is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the exemption is in the public interest.

*Note* Power to make a statutory instrument (including a disallowable instrument) includes power to make different provision for different categories (see [Legislation Act](#), s 48).

- (2) An exemption is subject to compliance with any condition stated in the exemption.

- (3) An exemption is a disallowable instrument.

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

### **Subdivision 5A.2.1A Electricity pricing information for small customers**

#### **75GA Obligation to give electricity price information**

- (1) If a NERL retailer tells a small customer for premises about the price of supplying electricity to the small customer, the retailer must also tell the small customer the difference between—
- (a) the reference price for the electricity; and
  - (b) the retailer's price for the electricity for the same period.
- (2) For subsection (1), a NERL retailer *tells* a small customer for premises about the price of supplying electricity to the small customer—
- (a) if the retailer offers to supply electricity to the small customer at the price; or
  - (b) if the retailer advertises or publishes the price; or
  - (c) if the price of the electricity supplied by the retailer to the small customer changes—if the retailer tells the small customer the new price.
- (3) If a NERL retailer supplies electricity to a small customer for premises and it has a better offer in relation to the supply of the electricity to the small customer, the retailer must tell the small customer that there is a better offer.

- (4) To assist a small customer to make an informed decision about electricity offered for supply or supplied to the small customer, an industry code may provide for—
- (a) how and when information mentioned in subsections (1) and (3) must be given by the NERL retailer to the small customer; and
  - (b) what other information the NERL retailer must give to the small customer in relation to the matters mentioned in subsections (1) and (3).

- (5) In this section:

***better offer***, in relation to the supply of electricity to a small customer by a NERL retailer, means a discount or alternative offer for the supply of the electricity by the retailer that, if the small customer were to accept, may reduce the amount payable by the small customer for the electricity.

***conditional discount***, in relation to the retailer's price of electricity, means a reduction (however described) in the price a small customer would have to pay for the electricity supplied by the NERL retailer if certain conditions were met other than a condition relating to the circumstances in which the small customer enters into a contract with the NERL retailer for the supply of the electricity.

***price***—

- (a) includes a charge of any description, including a recurring fee; but
- (b) does not include any of the following:
  - (i) a one-off fee;
  - (ii) a fee for making, or failing to make, a payment in particular circumstances;



- (iii) a fee for a service provided on request or because of special circumstances.

**Examples**

- 1 par (a)—an annual membership fee
- 2 par (b) (i)—a connection or reconnection fee, an account establishment fee
- 3 par (b) (ii)—a credit card transaction fee, late payment fee, direct debit dishonour fee
- 4 par (b) (iii)—a fee for a meter read requested by a customer

**reference price**, of electricity—see section 75GB (1) (b).

**representative consumption**, of electricity—see section 75GB (1) (a).

**retailer's price**, in relation to a NERL retailer, means the total price a small customer would have to pay if the NERL retailer supplied the representative consumption of electricity to the customer disregarding any conditional discounts.

**small customer**—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 5.

## **75GB Determination of representative consumption and reference price**

- (1) The Minister and Treasurer must jointly, for each year, determine in relation to the supply of electricity to a small customer for premises—
- (a) an amount of electricity (the **representative consumption**) they consider broadly represents the amount of electricity supplied to the small customer each year at the time they make the determination; and
  - (b) an annual price (the **reference price**) for the supply of the representative consumption of electricity to the small customer they consider is reasonable.

*Note* Power to make a determination includes power to make different provision in relation to different classes of small customers (see [Legislation Act](#), s 48).

- (2) A determination is a notifiable instrument.
- (3) In this section:
  - small customer*—see the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*, section 5.

### **Subdivision 5A.2.2    Enforcement**

#### **75H            Offence—contravention of code, s 75E or s 75GA**

- (1) A NERL retailer commits an offence if the retailer contravenes—
  - (a) an industry code or technical code that applies to the retailer; or
  - (b) section 75E (Greenpower obligations—general); or
  - (c) section 75GA (Obligation to give electricity price information).

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for an individual—3 000 penalty units; or
  - (b) for a corporation—\$11 060 000.
- (2) A NERL retailer who contravenes subsection (1) commits a separate offence for each day (after the first day of the contravention) during any part of which the contravention continues.

Maximum penalty (for each day): 600 penalty units.

- (3) This section does not apply to a NERL retailer if the retailer has a reasonable excuse for the contravention.

*Note*        The defendant has an evidential burden in relation to the matters mentioned in s (3) (see [Criminal Code](#), s 58).

**75I Directions about code, s 75E or s 75GA**

- (1) This section applies if the ICRC is satisfied that a NERL retailer has contravened, or is likely to contravene—
  - (a) an industry code that applies to the retailer; or
  - (b) section 75E (Greenpower obligations—general); or
  - (c) section 75GA (Obligation to give electricity price information).
- (2) The ICRC may give a written direction to the retailer to take action stated in the direction to ensure compliance with the code, section 75E or section 75GA, including action—
  - (a) to rectify the contravention; or
  - (b) to avoid the likely contravention.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) The ICRC may give a direction under this section only if it has taken reasonable steps to consult the retailer about the giving of the direction.

**75J Offence—contravention of direction**

- (1) A NERL retailer commits an offence if the retailer contravenes a direction under section 75I.

Maximum penalty: 2 000 penalty units.

- (2) A NERL retailer who contravenes subsection (1) commits a separate offence for each day (after the first day of the contravention) during any part of which the contravention continues.

Maximum penalty (for each day): 200 penalty units.

- (3) This section does not apply to a NERL retailer if the retailer has a reasonable excuse for the contravention.

*Note* The defendant has an evidential burden in relation to the matters mentioned in s (3) (see [Criminal Code](#), s 58).

**75K            Offence—contravention of s 75F**

- (1) A NERL retailer commits an offence if the retailer contravenes section 75F (Greenpower obligations—information on bills).

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for an individual—50 penalty units; or
  - (b) for a corporation—\$188 000.
- (2) An offence against this section is a strict liability offence.

## **Part 6 Access to utility services**

### **Division 6.1 Standard rights**

#### **77 Exercise of rights**

- (1) A right conferred on a person under this division is—
  - (a) exercisable only in accordance with this division; and
  - (b) subject to—
    - (i) the requirements and limitations applying to the relevant utility under this Act in relation to the provision of utility services; and
    - (ii) the operation of any industry code or technical code that applies to the service.
- (2) A right conferred on a person under this division is subject to any negotiated customer contract between the person and the relevant utility in relation to the service concerned.

#### **78 Form of application**

An application mentioned in this division may be made to the relevant utility—

- (a) orally or in writing; or
- (b) if acceptable to the utility—by telephone, fax or other electronic means.

#### **79 Electricity connection service**

- (1) This section applies if a person has applied to an electricity distributor for a connection service for electricity for the person's premises.
- (2) The person may elect to have an accredited person other than the distributor do work in relation to the connection service.

- (3) However, this section does not apply until a date determined by the Minister.

- (4) A determination is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

- (5) In this section:

***accredited person***, in relation to work, means a person accredited under a technical code to do the work.

### **83 Water connection service**

- (1) A water distributor must, on application by a person for any of the following utility services, provide the service in accordance with the distributor's standard customer contract:
- (a) connect the premises to which the application relates to the distributor's network;
  - (b) vary the capacity of the connection between the premises to which the application relates and the distributor's network;
  - (c) if the applicant elects accordingly—allow the connection, or the variation of the capacity of the connection, and the associated work, to be done by another person accredited under the relevant technical code.
- (2) For subsection (1) (c), work associated with the connection or variation does not include any augmentation, relocation or other alteration of the distributor's network.
- (3) To remove any doubt, action taken by an accredited person under subsection (1) (c) does not constitute the provision of a utility service.

(4) In this section:

***water distributor*** means—

- (a) in relation to the collection or treatment of water, or both, for distribution through a water network—a utility licensed for the service; and
- (b) in relation to the distribution of water through a water network—a utility licensed for the service; and
- (c) in relation to the provision of a water connection service to premises—a utility licensed to provide the service for the premises.

#### **84 Water supply service**

- (1) A water supplier must, on application by a person, and in accordance with the supplier's standard customer contract, supply water to premises owned or occupied by the person.
- (2) This section does not apply to the supply of water to premises for a non-franchise customer.

#### **85 Sewerage connection service**

- (1) A sewerage utility must, on application by a person for any of the following utility services, provide the service in accordance with the utility's standard customer contract:
  - (a) connect the premises to which the application relates to the utility's network;
  - (b) vary the capacity of the connection between the premises to which the application relates and the utility's network;
  - (c) if the applicant elects accordingly—allow the connection, or the variation of the capacity of the connection, and the associated work, to be done by another person accredited under the relevant technical code.

- (2) For subsection (1) (c), work associated with the connection or variation does not include any augmentation, relocation or other alteration of the utility's network.
- (3) To remove any doubt, action taken by an accredited person under subsection (1) (c) does not constitute the provision of a utility service.

## **86 Sewerage service**

A sewerage utility must, on application by a person, and in accordance with the utility's standard customer contract, provide a sewerage service for the premises to which the application relates.

## **Division 6.2 Standard customer contracts**

### **86A Meaning of *utility service*—div 6.2**

In this division:

*utility service* does not include a utility service in relation to electricity or gas.

### **87 Terms**

- (1) For this Act, the terms of a standard customer contract for the provision of a utility service by a particular utility are the terms of the contract, as approved or determined from time to time under this division, for the provision of the service by the utility.
- (2) A standard customer contract—
  - (a) may apply to 2 or more stated utility services; or
  - (b) may set out different terms for different classes of utility services.



## **88 Draft contracts**

- (1) ICRC must consider a draft standard customer contract submitted by a utility to ICRC for approval.
- (2) ICRC may give a written direction to a utility to submit to ICRC for consideration a draft standard customer contract for the provision of a utility service.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) A utility must comply with a direction within the period stated in the direction that ICRC is satisfied is reasonable in the circumstances.

## **89 Approval of terms**

- (1) ICRC may—
  - (a) approve; or
  - (b) refuse to approve;the terms of a standard customer contract, a draft of which has been submitted to ICRC in accordance with section 88.
- (2) ICRC may approve the terms of a standard customer contract only if satisfied that, when in force as a standard customer contract—
  - (a) the terms would be consistent with—
    - (i) the conditions of the utility's licence; and
    - (ii) the requirements imposed by or under this Act or a related law, including in particular, the requirements of each industry code and technical code that is applicable; and
  - (b) the charges payable under the contract would be consistent with the relevant price direction by ICRC; and
  - (c) the terms would be fair and reasonable.

- (3) ICRC must give written notice of a refusal under this section to the utility.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (4) A notice of refusal must set out the reasons for the refusal and may—
- (a) state any matter that ICRC is satisfied requires further consideration or development; and
  - (b) require the utility to submit a further draft standard customer contract to ICRC for consideration.
- (5) If subsection (4) (b) applies, the notice must state the period, that ICRC is satisfied is reasonable in the circumstances, within which the further draft standard customer contract is to be submitted.

## **90 Determination of terms**

- (1) ICRC may determine the terms of a standard customer contract if—
- (a) a utility fails to submit a draft standard customer contract in accordance with a direction under section 88; or
  - (b) a utility fails to submit a further draft standard customer contract in accordance with a requirement under section 89; or
  - (c) ICRC is satisfied that a further draft standard customer contract submitted in accordance with a requirement under section 89 (4) (b) is not appropriate.
- (2) The determined terms must comply with the requirements of section 89 (2).

## **91 Notification and application of terms etc**

Each of the following is a notifiable instrument:

- (a) the terms of a standard customer contract approved under section 89 (Approval of terms) or determined under section 90 (Determination of terms);

- (b) a variation of a standard customer contract approved or determined under section 93 (Variation of terms).

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **92 Creation of standard customer contracts**

- (1) The terms on which a utility may provide a utility service to a person are—
  - (a) to the extent that the service is provided under a negotiated customer contract—the terms of the contract; or
  - (b) in any other case—the terms of the standard customer contract for the provision of the service by the utility that apply—
    - (i) when the person applies to the utility for the service on those terms; or
    - (ii) when the service is provided by the utility to the person in the absence of an application by the person.
- (2) Where subsection (1) (b) applies, the terms of the standard customer contract constitute an enforceable contract between the utility and the person for the provision of the service.
- (3) A standard customer contract—
  - (a) has no effect in relation to anything occurring before it comes into operation; and
  - (b) is subject to any variation under section 93; and
  - (c) is unenforceable by the relevant utility to the extent (if any) to which it does not comply with the requirements set out in section 89 (2) (a) and (b).

**93 Variation of terms**

- (1) ICRC may approve, or determine, a variation of the terms of a standard customer contract and, for that purpose, the other provisions of this division apply to the variation in the same way as they apply to terms for a new standard customer contract.
- (2) However, ICRC may determine a variation of the terms of a standard customer contract if satisfied that the variation—
  - (a) would not materially alter the terms; or
  - (b) is necessary or convenient because of an amendment of an Act or a subordinate law.
- (3) If the terms of a standard customer contract for a utility service provided by a particular utility are varied under this part, each standard customer contract for the provision of the service by the utility is varied accordingly.

**94 Water supply and sewerage services—owner's liability for payment**

- (1) The owner of land where water is supplied under a standard customer contract is liable for an amount payable by the customer under the contract.
- (2) The owner of land where sewerage services are provided under a standard customer contract is liable for an amount payable by the customer under the contract.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to an amount paid by the customer.
- (4) Joint owners of land are jointly and severally liable under subsections (1) and (2).
- (5) The owner's liability under subsection (1) or (2) includes any undischarged liability of a former owner of the land for an amount payable under that subsection.

(6) In this section:

**owner** means—

- (a) for land held in fee simple—the person in whom the fee simple is vested for the time being; or
- (b) for land held under a lease—the lessee for the time being; or
- (c) for land occupied under a tenancy granted by the Territory—the tenant for the time being; or
- (d) for other land occupied by a person with the consent of the Territory—that person; or
- (e) for land held under a land sublease—the sublessee.

## **Division 6.3                      Negotiated customer contracts etc**

### **94A                      Application—div 6.3**

- (1) This division does not apply to a utility service in relation to electricity or gas.
- (2) However, section 95 (2) and (3) applies to a feed-in contract (whether entered into before or after the commencement day) on and after the commencement day as if—
  - (a) a reference to a utility were a reference to a NERL retailer; and
  - (b) subsection (2) (a) were omitted.
- (3) In this section:

**commencement day** means the commencement of the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT) Act 2012*, section 6 (Application of National Energy Retail Law).

**feed-in contract** means a contract relating to action required under the *Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008*, section 6 (2) or (3).

## **95 Negotiated customer contracts**

- (1) This section applies to a contract, between a utility and a customer, for a utility service on terms other than those of the standard customer contract for the provision of the service by the utility.
- (2) The contract is unenforceable by the utility to the extent (if any) to which it is inconsistent with—
  - (a) the conditions of the utility's licence; or
  - (b) the requirements imposed by or under this Act or a related law, including in particular, the requirements of each industry code or technical code that is applicable.
- (3) Without limiting the operation of subsection (2), the regulations may provide for the core requirements to be ascertained by reference to—
  - (a) the standard customer contract that would otherwise apply to the provision of the service by the utility; or
  - (b) an industry code or technical code.

## **96 Unauthorised arrangements for utility services**

An arrangement for the provision of a utility service, other than a standard customer contract or a negotiated customer contract, is unenforceable by the person responsible for the provision of the service unless the person is—

- (a) licensed to provide the service; or
- (b) exempt from the requirement for such a licence.

## **Division 6.4                      Passing on supply costs**

### **97                      Approved meters**

In this division:

*approved meter* means a meter that complies with the relevant technical code.

### **100                    Passing on the cost of water**

- (1) A person to whom water is supplied under a customer contract must not impose a charge for supplying the water to premises of another person unless each of the following conditions is satisfied:
- (a) for metered premises—
    - (i) the quantity supplied to the premises must be measured separately by an approved meter; and
    - (ii) the rate at which the charge is made must not exceed the maximum rate a utility may charge under a standard customer contract if it were to supply that quantity of water directly to those premises of the other person;
  - (b) for unmetered premises—the charge must not exceed the maximum charge determined by ICRC for the supply of water to unmetered premises at or near the premises of the other person;
  - (c) for all premises—subject to subsection (3), the person makes no other charge in relation to the supply of the water.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for an individual—50 penalty units; or
- (b) for a corporation—\$188 000.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to—
- (a) a utility licensed for the distribution or supply of water to the premises of the other person; or
  - (b) a person who is exempt from the requirement for such a licence.
- (3) A person to whom water is supplied under a customer contract must not impose a charge for use of that water (whether the charge is separate or incorporated in another charge, for example for services or facilities) unless each of the following conditions is satisfied:
- (a) the rate at which the charge is made must not exceed the maximum rate a utility may charge under a standard customer contract for the supply of the water used;
  - (b) the person makes no other charge in relation to the use of the water;
  - (c) if required by the regulations—the usage is metered in accordance with the regulations.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) for an individual—50 penalty units; or
- (b) for a corporation—\$188 000.

## **Division 6.5                      Miscellaneous**

### **101                      Capital contribution charges—network development**

- (1) A utility may impose a charge (a *capital contribution charge*) payable by customers for the development or augmentation of its network for the following purposes:
- (a) making utility services available to parcels of land not already connected to a network;
  - (b) varying the capacity of connections to its network.



- (2) A capital contribution charge must be in accordance with the relevant industry code.
- (3) This section does not apply to—
  - (a) a utility service in relation to electricity; or
  - (b) an electricity network; or
  - (c) a utility service in relation to gas; or
  - (d) a gas network.

## Part 7 Network operations

### Division 7.1 General

#### 103 Definitions for pt 7

In this part:

*installation*, of a network facility, includes—

- (a) the construction or extension of the facility on, over or under any land or water; and
- (b) the attachment of the facility to any building or other structure; and
- (c) any activity that is ancillary or incidental to an activity mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

*network operations* means work carried out by a utility, or an authorised person for a utility, under this part in the exercise of its functions under this Act.

### Division 7.2 General powers

#### 104 Acquisition of land

- (1) A utility may compulsorily acquire land (including an interest in land) for the purpose of exercising its functions under this Act.
- (2) The acquisition must be in accordance with the [Lands Acquisition Act 1994](#).

## **105 Installation of network facilities**

- (1) For purposes connected with the provision of a utility service, a utility may—
  - (a) enter and occupy land; and
  - (b) undertake any work on the land that is necessary or desirable for installing a network facility.
- (2) Under subsection (1) (b), the utility may, for example, undertake any of the following work:
  - (a) make surveys, take samples and examine the soil;
  - (b) construct, install or place any plant, machinery, equipment or goods;
  - (c) fell or lop trees, or clear and remove vegetation;
  - (d) interrupt the provision of utility services by the utility;
  - (e) make cuttings and excavations;
  - (f) level the land or make roads;
  - (g) erect offices, workshops, sheds, other buildings, fences and other structures;
  - (h) demolish, destroy or remove any network facility installed or used by the utility in relation to the provision of a utility service;
  - (i) put a gate or passageway in a fence or wall (except a wall of a building) that prevents or hinders the work of the utility under this section, or remove such a gate or passageway;
  - (j) temporarily divert or stop traffic on a public road or bridge;

- (k) restore the land, or fences, walls or other structures on the land, affected by the work of the utility and, for that purpose, remove and dispose of soil, vegetation and other material.
- (3) This section does not entitle a utility to act under subsection (1) on land that it does not own unless—
  - (a) it owns an appropriate interest in the land; or
  - (b) the owner of the land agrees to the undertaking.
- (4) If subsection (2) (i) applies, the utility must ensure, so far as practicable that the work is carried out in a way that minimises inconvenience and disruption to the passage of people, vehicles and vessels.
- (5) Any work undertaken under this section that affects a protected tree is subject to the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), part 3 (Protection of trees).

*Note* Under the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that [Act](#), s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to—

- (a) for a public or regulated tree—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
- (b) for any other protected tree—an activity approved under that [Act](#), s 28 or s 32 (see that [Act](#), s 18 (1) (c)).

## **106 Maintenance of network facilities**

- (1) A utility may, at any time, maintain a network facility and, for that purpose, do anything necessary or desirable, including, for example—
  - (a) entering and occupying land; and
  - (b) undertaking any work of a kind mentioned in section 105.
- (2) For subsection (1), the maintenance of a network facility includes, for example, the following work:
  - (a) the alteration, removal, repair or replacement of any part of the facility;

- (b) the provisioning of the facility with material or information (whether in electronic form or otherwise);
- (c) inspecting or otherwise ensuring the proper functioning of the facility from time to time;
- (d) action to which a network protection notice relates.

*Note* For par (d)—see the *Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014*, s 32 (Network protection notices).

- (3) Any work undertaken under this section that affects a protected tree is subject to the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, part 3 (Protection of trees).

*Note* Under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that *Act*, s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to—

- (a) for a public or regulated tree—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
- (b) for a registered or remnant tree, if the work is undertaken for protecting life or property in urgent circumstances—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
- (c) for a protected tree in any other case—an activity approved under that *Act*, s 28 or s 32 (see that *Act*, s 18 (1) (c)).

## **107 National land**

Functions of the kind exercisable by a utility under this part are exercisable in relation to national land only by agreement with the Commonwealth.

## **Division 7.3                      Performance of network operations**

### **108                      Damage etc to be minimised**

In carrying out network operations, a utility must take all reasonable steps to ensure that it causes as little inconvenience, detriment and damage as is practicable.

### **109                      Notice to land-holder**

- (1) Before a utility begins network operations in relation to public land or private land, it must give the land-holder written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note*        For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (2) The notice must be given to the land-holder—
  - (a) at least 7 days before the operations begin; or
  - (b) if the relevant industry code requires a minimum period of notice—in accordance with the code.
- (3) The notice must, so far as practicable, state the following matters:
  - (a) the purpose of the operations;
  - (b) the nature of the activities involved;
  - (c) the parts of the land likely to be affected;
  - (d) the period or periods during which the activities are expected to be carried out;
  - (e) contain a statement indicating—
    - (i) the utility's obligation under this part to restore the land;  
and
    - (ii) the ACAT's power to direct payment by the utility for loss or damage resulting from the operations.

- (4) The land-holder may waive its right to all or part of the minimum period of notice under subsection (2).
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply if the operations are to be carried out in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
  - (a) the integrity of a network or network facility; or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment.

#### **109A Notice to owner of structure—network operations**

- (1) This section applies to network operations on infrastructure owned by a utility and installed in a structure owned by the Territory.
- (2) At least 7 days before beginning network operations, the utility must give the Territory written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) The notice must—
  - (a) so far as practicable, state the following matters:
    - (i) the purpose of the operations;
    - (ii) the nature of the activities involved;
    - (iii) the structure to be accessed;
    - (iv) the period or periods during which the operations are expected to be carried out; and
  - (b) state the utility's obligations under this part.

*Note* The utility's obligations include taking all reasonable steps to ensure that it causes as little inconvenience, detriment and damage as is practicable (see s 108), removing its property and waste (see s 112) and restoring the land (see s 113).

- (4) The Territory may, in writing, agree to a notice period of less than 7 days.
- (5) However, there is no notice period for network operations carried out—
  - (a) in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
    - (i) the integrity of a territory network or territory network facility; or
    - (ii) the health or safety of people; or
    - (iii) public or private property; or
    - (iv) the environment; or
  - (b) for streetlight network infrastructure—in accordance with an access agreement between the utility and the Territory, made under a streetlight network code.

## **110 Notice about lopping trees etc on private land—network operations**

- (1) This section applies to network operations to the extent that they involve—
  - (a) the felling or lopping of trees on private land; or
  - (b) the trimming of roots of trees or other plants on private land; or
  - (c) the clearing or removal of vegetation on private land.
- (2) Before a utility begins such operations, it must give the land-holder notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.



- (3) The notice—
- (a) must be given at least 7 days before the operations begin; and
  - (b) must indicate the trees or vegetation affected and the activity proposed; and
  - (c) may require the land-holder to carry out the activity within a stated period; and
  - (d) if paragraph (c) applies—must contain a statement—
    - (i) about the effect of subsection (6); and
    - (ii) that the land-holder may need approval under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, part 3 (Protection of trees) to carry out the activity; and
  - (e) if the operations relate to other network operations for which notice is required under this division—may be given in or with the notice of the other operations.

*Note* Under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that *Act*, s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to an activity approved under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, s 28 or s 32 (see that *Act*, s 18 (1) (c)).

- (4) The land-holder may waive its right to all or part of the minimum period of notice under subsection (3) (a).
- (5) If subsection (3) (c) applies, the stated period within which the land-holder is required to carry out the activity must run for at least 7 days commencing on the day the notice is given to the land-holder.
- (6) If the land-holder does not carry out the activity in accordance with a requirement in the notice mentioned in subsection (3) (c)—
  - (a) the utility may carry out the activity; and
  - (b) the reasonable expenses thus incurred by the utility are a debt due to the utility by the land-holder.

- (7) Subsection (6) (b) does not apply to a tree or vegetation growing on the land before a network facility was installed on the land.
- (8) In urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
  - (a) the integrity of a network or a network facility; or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment;subsections (2) and (3) do not apply and the utility may carry out the operations at its own expense.

#### **110A Network operations affecting heritage significance**

- (1) If a notice under section 109 or section 110 is about network operations that may affect a place or object registered, or nominated for provisional registration, under the *Heritage Act 2004*, the utility must also give a copy of the notice to the heritage council at least 7 days before the day operations begin.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the operations are to be carried out in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
  - (a) the integrity of a network or network facility; or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment.

## **111 Notice to other utilities**

- (1) This section applies to network operations by a utility that consist of, or include, an activity that—
- (a) affects; or
  - (b) is reasonably likely to affect;

a network facility under the care and management of a public utility.

- (2) Before the utility begins such operations, it must give the public utility written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) The notice must—
- (a) be given to the public utility at least 7 days before the operations begin; and
  - (b) so far as practicable, state the following matters:
    - (i) the purpose of the operations;
    - (ii) the nature of the activities involved;
    - (iii) the network facility affected;
    - (iv) the period or periods during which the activities are expected to be carried out.
- (4) The utility must—
- (a) make reasonable efforts to enter into an agreement with the public utility about the way the activities would be carried out; and
  - (b) comply with any such agreement.
- (5) The public utility may waive its right to notice under subsection (2).

- (6) Subsection (2) does not apply if the operations are to be carried out in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
- (a) the integrity of a network or a network facility; or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment.

- (7) In this section:

***network facility*** includes—

- (a) a telecommunications facility; and
- (b) a stormwater facility; and
- (c) a streetlight facility.

***public utility*** includes—

- (a) a utility licensed under this Act; and
- (b) a carrier or network operator under the [Telecommunications Act 1997](#) (Cwlth); and
- (c) the entity responsible for the operation of the stormwater network; and
- (d) the entity responsible for the operation of the streetlight network.

***stormwater facility*** means any part of the infrastructure of a stormwater network.

***streetlight facility*** means any part of the infrastructure of a streetlight network.

***telecommunications facility*** means a facility under the [Telecommunications Act 1997](#) (Cwlth).

## **112 Removal of utility's property and waste**

- (1) A utility that undertakes an activity as network operations on land for which it is not the land-holder must, as soon as practicable, remove from the land—
  - (a) all—
    - (i) items of plant, machinery, equipment and other goods; and
    - (ii) offices, workshops, sheds and other buildings; and
    - (iii) roads and tracks;  
that the utility constructed, installed or placed on the land and that do not form part of, or are not to be used in the operation of, the network facility to which the activity related; and
  - (b) all spoil, waste and rubbish and cleared vegetation resulting from the activity.
- (2) The obligation in subsection (1) is subject to any agreement to the contrary between the utility and the land-holder.

## **113 Land to be restored**

- (1) A utility that carries out network operations on land for which it is not the land-holder must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land is restored as soon as practicable to a condition that is similar to its condition before the operations began.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not require the restoration of land to a condition that would involve—
  - (a) an interference with—
    - (i) a network or network facility; or
    - (ii) a territory network or territory network facility; or
  - (b) a contravention of a territory law.

- (3) The obligation in subsection (1) is subject to any agreement to the contrary between the utility and the land-holder.

## **Division 7.4                      Authorised people**

### **114                      Appointment**

- (1) A utility may appoint a person as an authorised person for the utility for this Act.

*Note 1* For the making of appointments (including acting appointments), see [Legislation Act](#), div 19.3.

*Note 2* In particular, a person may be appointed for a particular provision of a law (see [Legislation Act](#), s 7 (3)) and an appointment may be made by naming a person or nominating the occupant of a position (see s 207).

- (2) An authorised person must exercise his or her functions under this Act in accordance with the conditions of appointment and any direction given to the person by the utility.

### **115                      Identity cards**

- (1) A utility must give each of its authorised people an identity card that specifies the person's name and appointment as an authorised person for the utility, and on which appears a recent photograph of the person.
- (2) A person must, within 7 days after ceasing to be an authorised person, return the identity card to the utility.

Maximum penalty (subsection (2)): 1 penalty unit.

### **116                      Entry to premises—network operations**

- (1) Where a utility is entitled under this part to undertake network operations affecting particular premises, an authorised person for the utility may—
- (a) enter the premises, with such people, vehicles and things as are reasonable and necessary for the operations; and

- (b) carry out the activities necessary for those operations.
- (2) The authorised person may not remain on the premises if, on request by the land-holder or person apparently in charge of the premises, the authorised person does not produce his or her identity card.
- (3) The authorised person may enter and remain on the premises under this section with such assistance as is necessary and reasonable.

#### **117 Entry to premises—inspection of meters etc**

- (1) An authorised person for a utility may enter and remain on any premises to which the utility provides, or is to provide, a utility service—
  - (a) to read, or check the accuracy of, a meter for recording the provision of the service to the premises; or
  - (b) to check work associated with the connection of premises to the utility's network that is performed by a person accredited under the relevant technical code; or
  - (c) to check the operation of a connection between the premises and the utility's network, or install, repair, remove or replace such a connection; or
  - (d) for a purpose related to the connection of the premises to the utility's network, or its withdrawal.
- (2) The authorised person may not remain on the premises if, on request by the land-holder or person apparently in charge of the premises, the authorised person does not produce his or her identity card.
- (3) The authorised person may enter and remain on the premises under this section—
  - (a) at any reasonable time; and
  - (b) with such assistance as is necessary and reasonable.

## **Division 7.5                      Miscellaneous**

### **119                      Order to enforce exercise of functions**

- (1) If—
- (a) an authorised person is entitled to exercise a function under this part in relation to premises; and
  - (b) another person obstructs, or proposes to obstruct, the authorised person in the exercise of the function;
- the Magistrates Court may, on the application of the authorised person, make an order authorising a police officer or other person named in the order to use such assistance and force as are reasonably necessary to enable the function to be exercised.
- (2) A copy of an application under subsection (1) must be given to the obstructor, and the obstructor is entitled to appear and be heard on the hearing of the application.

### **120                      Ownership of network facilities**

- (1) The owner or occupier of land to which a network facility is affixed has no proprietary interest in the facility only because it is affixed to the land.
- (2) A network facility of a utility is not to be taken in execution of a judgment against a person other than the utility under any process of a court.

### **121                      Clarifying ownership of certain network facilities**

- (1) The purpose of this section is to remove uncertainty about the ownership of network facilities that—
  - (a) are used, or for use, by a utility or a subsidiary of the utility in providing a utility service; and



- (b) are treated by the Territory and the utility or subsidiary as being owned by the utility or subsidiary; and
  - (c) are affixed to land owned or occupied by a person other than the utility or subsidiary.
- (2) The Minister may declare that this section applies to network facilities.

*Note* Power given under an Act to make a statutory instrument includes power to make different provision for different categories, eg declarations in relation to different classes of network facilities or that apply by reference to stated exceptions (see [Legislation Act](#), s 48).

- (3) A declaration must include sufficient particulars to identify the facilities to which the declaration applies.
- (4) A declaration is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **122 Effect of declaration under s 121**

- (1) On the day a declaration under section 121 takes effect in relation to a network facility, the facility, by force of this section—
  - (a) is severed from the land and remains severed; and
  - (b) vests in the person in whom the declaration states that the facility vests, without any conveyance, transfer or assignment.
- (2) A facility severed under subsection (1) ceases for all purposes to be a fixture.
- (3) A person in whom a facility is vested has, by force of this section, the following rights in relation to the facility:
  - (a) to have the facility (including any lines, pipes, equipment and any other thing ancillary to any other part of the facility) remain on, under or over the land for the provision of utility services;
  - (b) for that purpose, to use, or continue to use, the facility;

- (c) to enter and occupy land on, above or under which the facility is located, and to undertake work on that land, for the purpose of maintaining the facility.
- (4) To ensure the proper provision of utility services, the Minister may determine conditions for the exercise of a right given by subsection (3) (c).
- (5) The right is exercisable only in accordance with the determined conditions.
- (6) A determination under subsection (4) is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).
- (7) A declaration under section 121 has no effect to the extent that it would vest a facility in a person if the facility had not been used, or for use, by the person in providing a utility service before the declaration.

## **Part 9**                      **Controller's power to take over operations**

### **Division 9.1**              **General**

#### **134**              **Meaning of *utility*—pt 9**

- (1) In this part:  
*utility* includes a former utility.
- (2) In this section:  
*former utility* does not include a NERL retailer.

#### **135**              **Appointment of controller**

- (1) This section applies if the Minister is satisfied—
  - (a) that—
    - (i) a contravention by a utility of a licence condition threatens the provision of the utility's service to customers; and
    - (ii) other remedies are inadequate to ensure compliance with the licence condition; or
  - (b) that, following the expiry or cessation of a licence, the provision of utility services to customers is threatened.
- (2) In either case, the Minister may, after consulting ICRC, appoint a controller for all or part of the operations of the responsible utility.

*Note 1* For the making of appointments (including acting appointments), see [Legislation Act](#), div 19.3.

*Note 2* In particular, an appointment may be made by naming a person or nominating the occupant of a position (see [Legislation Act](#), s 207).

*Note 3* Certain Ministerial appointments require consultation with an Assembly committee and are disallowable (see [Legislation Act](#), div 19.3.3).

- (3) The controller has the functions stated in the instrument of appointment.
- (4) A controller holds the position on the conditions stated in the instrument of appointment.
- (5) The Minister may revoke an appointment by written notice given to the person.

*Note* A person's appointment also ends if the person resigns (see [Legislation Act](#), s 210).

## **136 Controller's functions**

- (1) A controller must, so far as practicable, ensure the provision or continued provision of the utility service to which the appointment relates.
- (2) For that purpose, the controller may—
  - (a) take control of the relevant operations of the utility; and
  - (b) take control of the activities of an associate of the utility so far as they relate to the provision of the relevant utility services; and
  - (c) have access to a network facility or other premises of the responsible utility or an associate, so far as is reasonable and necessary; and
  - (d) give a written direction to a person to take stated action.

*Note 1* A provision of a law that gives an entity (including a person) a function also gives the entity powers necessary and convenient to exercise the function (see [Legislation Act](#), s 196 and dict, pt 1, def *entity*).

*Note 2* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

**137 Utility to cooperate**

- (1) The responsible utility must facilitate the taking of action by the controller and, in particular must comply with any direction by the controller.
- (2) A utility is not to be taken to contravene a requirement under this Act or any other Act by complying with a direction of the controller.

**138 Reports to Minister**

The controller must furnish to the Minister such information relating to the controller's functions as the Minister requires.

**139 Ministerial directions**

- (1) The Minister may give written directions to the controller in relation to the exercise of the controller's functions, either generally or in relation to a particular matter.
- (2) The controller must give effect to any such direction.

**140 Contravention of controller's direction**

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, contravene a direction given by the controller in the performance of functions under this part.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

**142 Immunity from personal liability**

- (1) No personal liability attaches to a person who is, or has been, a controller for any act or omission in good faith in the exercise, or purported exercise, of a function under this Act.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not affect any liability that the Territory would have, but for the operation of subsection (1), in relation to the act or omission.

## **Division 9.2                      Compensation**

### **143                      Right to compensation**

- (1) Subject to this section, a person who suffers loss because of an act or omission of a controller is entitled to be paid reasonable compensation by the Territory in relation to the loss.
- (2) Compensation is not payable to a person in relation to a loss to the extent—
  - (a) of any amount recovered or recoverable by the person under a policy of insurance; or
  - (b) that the conduct of the person contributed to the loss.
- (3) Compensation is not payable to a person in relation to a loss if the loss would have arisen despite the act or omission of the controller.

### **144                      Claims**

A claim for compensation must—

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) set out particulars of the claimant's loss, the amount of compensation claimed and the grounds for the claim of that amount; and
- (c) be lodged with the director-general.

### **145                      Acceptance or rejection of claim**

- (1) Where the Minister is satisfied that a claimant is entitled to compensation under section 143, the Minister must accept the claim by giving written notice of acceptance to the claimant setting out—
  - (a) an offer to the claimant of the amount of compensation to which the Minister considers the claimant is entitled; and
  - (b) an explanation of how that amount was assessed.

- (2) Where the Minister is satisfied that a claimant is not entitled to compensation under section 143, the Minister must reject the claim by giving written notice of rejection to the claimant setting out the reasons for the rejection.

**146 Acceptance or rejection of compensation offer**

A claimant to whom an offer has been made under section 145 may—

- (a) accept the offer; or
- (b) reject the offer;

by giving written notice to that effect to the director-general.

**147 Payment**

Where a claimant accepts an offer of an amount of compensation, the Territory must pay the amount to the claimant.

**148 Role of court**

If the Territory and the person to whom compensation is payable under section 143 do not agree on the amount of compensation, the person may, in a court of competent jurisdiction, recover from the Territory such reasonable compensation as the court determines.

## **149 Recovery of compensation**

If—

- (a) a controller is appointed because of a contravention by a utility of a licence condition; and
- (b) a person suffers loss because of an act or omission of the controller; and
- (c) the controller's act or omission was in good faith in the exercise or purported exercise of a function under this part;

the amount of compensation payable under this part for the loss is a debt due to the Territory by the utility.



## Part 9A                      Shortage of essential services

### 149A        Definitions—pt 9A

In this part:

*essential service* means electricity, gas or water.

*essential service restriction* means a restriction or other regulation prescribed by regulation in relation to the use of an essential service.

### 149B        Restriction of utility service

A regulation may make provision in relation to a shortage, or possible shortage, in the amount of an essential service needed for the community, including provision regulating the use of an essential service by consumers.

### 149C        Powers in relation to premises

- (1) This section applies if an authorised person believes, on reasonable grounds, that an essential service is being used, or has just been used, at premises in contravention of an essential service restriction.
- (2) For this Act, the authorised person may, at any reasonable time—
  - (a) enter and inspect the premises and anything at the premises; and
  - (b) take action prescribed by regulation in relation to a contravention of the essential service restriction.
- (3) However, subsection (2) (a) does not authorise entry into a part of premises that is being used only for residential purposes.
- (4) To remove any doubt, an authorised person may enter premises under subsection (2) (a) without payment of an entry fee or other charge.

**149D      Production of identity card**

An authorised person must not remain on premises entered under this part if, when asked by the occupier, the authorised person does not produce the authorised person's identity card for inspection by the occupier.

## Part 10 Enforcement

*Note* This part applies to NERL retailers and NERL exempt sellers (see s 75B and s 75C).

### Division 10.1 General

#### 150 Definitions for pt 10

In this part:

**connected**—a thing is **connected** with a particular offence if—

- (a) the offence has been committed in relation to it; or
- (b) it will provide evidence of the commission of the offence; or
- (c) it was used, is being used, or is intended to be used, to commit the offence.

**occupier**, of premises, includes—

- (a) a person believed on reasonable grounds to be an occupier of the premises; and
- (b) a person apparently in charge of the premises.

**offence** includes an offence that there are reasonable grounds for believing has been, is being, or will be committed.

### Division 10.2 ICRC inspectors

#### 152 Appointment

- (1) ICRC may appoint a person as an ICRC inspector for this Act.

*Note 1* For the making of appointments (including acting appointments), see [Legislation Act](#), div 19.3.

*Note 2* In particular, a person may be appointed for a particular provision of a law (see [Legislation Act](#), s 7 (3)) and an appointment may be made by naming a person or nominating the occupant of a position (see s 207).

- (2) An ICRC inspector must exercise his or her functions under this Act in accordance with the conditions of appointment and any direction given to the inspector by ICRC.
- (3) A person must not be appointed under subsection (1) unless—
  - (a) the person is an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia; and
  - (b) the director-general has certified in writing that, after appropriate inquiry, the director-general is satisfied that the person is a suitable person to be appointed, having regard in particular to—
    - (i) whether the person has any criminal convictions; and
    - (ii) the person's employment record; and
  - (c) the director-general has certified in writing that the director-general is satisfied that the person—
    - (i) has satisfactorily completed adequate training; and
    - (ii) is competent;to exercise the functions of an inspector proposed to be given to the person.

### **153 Identity cards**

- (1) ICRC must give each of its inspectors an identity card that specifies the inspector's name and appointment as an ICRC inspector, and on which appears a recent photograph of the person.
- (2) A person must, within 7 days after ceasing to be an ICRC inspector, return the identity card to ICRC.

Maximum penalty (contravention of subsection (2)): 1 penalty unit.

**154 Power to enter premises**

- (1) An ICRC inspector may, for the purpose of ICRC's functions under this Act—
  - (a) enter any premises at any time with the consent of the occupier; or
  - (b) enter premises occupied by a utility at any time the premises are being used; or
  - (c) at any reasonable time, enter premises to which a utility service is provided (other than a part used for residential purposes); or
  - (d) enter premises in accordance with a warrant under section 157.
- (2) An ICRC inspector may, without the occupier's consent or a warrant, enter the land around premises to ask the occupier for consent to enter the premises.

**155 Production of identity card**

An ICRC inspector may not remain on premises entered under this division if, on request by the occupier, the inspector does not produce his or her identity card.

**156 Consent to entry**

- (1) When seeking the consent of an occupier for entering premises under this division, an ICRC inspector must—
  - (a) produce his or her identity card; and
  - (b) tell the occupier—
    - (i) the purpose of the entry; and
    - (ii) that anything found and seized may be used in evidence in court; and
    - (iii) that consent may be refused.

- (2) If the occupier consents, the inspector must ask the occupier to sign a written acknowledgment—
  - (a) that the occupier was told—
    - (i) the purpose of the entry; and
    - (ii) that anything found and seized may be used in evidence in court; and
    - (iii) that consent could be refused; and
  - (b) that the occupier consented to the entry; and
  - (c) the time, and day, when consent was given.
- (3) If the occupier signs an acknowledgment of consent, the inspector must immediately give a copy to the occupier.
- (4) Unless the contrary is proven, a court must presume that an occupier of premises did not consent to an entry to the premises by an ICRC inspector under this division if—
  - (a) the question whether the occupier consented to the entry arises in proceedings in the court; and
  - (b) an acknowledgment under this section is not produced in evidence for the entry or exercise of power; and
  - (c) it is not proved that the occupier consented to the entry.

## **157 Warrants**

- (1) An ICRC inspector may apply to a magistrate for a warrant to enter premises.
- (2) The application must be sworn and state the grounds on which the warrant is sought.
- (3) The magistrate may refuse to consider the application until the inspector gives the magistrate all the information the magistrate requires about the application in the way the magistrate requires.

- (4) The magistrate may issue a warrant only if satisfied there are reasonable grounds for suspecting—
  - (a) there is a particular thing or activity (the evidence) that may provide evidence of an offence against this Act or a related law; and
  - (b) the evidence is, or may be within the next 14 days, at the premises.
- (5) The warrant must state—
  - (a) that an ICRC inspector may, with necessary help and force, enter the premises and exercise the inspector's powers under this division; and
  - (b) the offence for which the warrant is sought; and
  - (c) the evidence that may be seized under the warrant; and
  - (d) the hours when the premises may be entered; and
  - (e) the date, within 14 days after the warrant's issue, the warrant ends.

## **158 Warrants—application made other than in person**

- (1) An ICRC inspector may apply for a warrant by phone, fax, radio or other form of communication if the inspector considers it necessary because of—
  - (a) urgent circumstances; or
  - (b) other special circumstances.
- (2) Before applying for the warrant, the inspector must prepare an application stating the grounds on which the warrant is sought.

- (3) The inspector may apply for the warrant before the application is sworn.
- (4) After issuing the warrant, the magistrate must immediately provide a written copy to the inspector if it is reasonably practicable to do so.
- (5) If it is not reasonably practicable to provide a written copy to the inspector—
  - (a) the magistrate must—
    - (i) tell the inspector what the terms of the warrant are; and
    - (ii) tell the inspector the date and time the warrant was issued; and
  - (b) the inspector must complete a form of warrant (warrant form) and write on it—
    - (i) the magistrate's name; and
    - (ii) the date and time the magistrate issued the warrant; and
    - (iii) the warrant's terms.
- (6) The written copy of the warrant, or the warrant form properly completed by the inspector, authorises the entry and the exercise of the other powers stated in the warrant issued by the magistrate.
- (7) The inspector must, at the first reasonable opportunity, send the magistrate—
  - (a) the sworn application; and
  - (b) if the inspector completed a warrant form—the completed warrant form.
- (8) On receiving the documents, the magistrate must attach them to the warrant.



- (9) Unless the contrary is proven, a court must presume that a power exercised by an ICRC inspector was not authorised by a warrant under this section if—
- (a) the question arises in a proceeding before the court whether the exercise of power was authorised by a warrant; and
  - (b) the warrant is not produced in evidence.

## **159 Powers on entry to premises**

- (1) An ICRC inspector who enters premises under this division may, for the purpose of ICRC's functions under this Act—
- (a) inspect, measure, photograph or film the premises or anything on the premises; or
  - (b) copy a document on the premises; or
  - (c) test or take samples of or from anything on the premises; or
  - (d) take into the premises any people, equipment or material the inspector reasonably needs for exercising a power under this division; or
  - (e) require the occupier, or a person on the premises to give the inspector reasonable help to exercise a power under this division.
- (2) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, contravene a requirement under subsection (1) (e).

Maximum penalty (subsection (2)): 50 penalty units.

## **160 Power to seize evidence**

- (1) An ICRC inspector who enters premises with a warrant under this division may seize the evidence for which the warrant was issued.
- (2) An ICRC inspector who enters premises under this division with the consent of the occupier may seize a thing on the premises if—
  - (a) the inspector is satisfied the thing is connected with an offence against this Act or a related law; and
  - (b) seizure of the thing is consistent with the purpose of the entry as told to the occupier in seeking the occupier's consent.
- (3) An ICRC inspector may also seize another thing on the premises if the inspector is satisfied—
  - (a) the thing is connected with an offence against this Act or a related law; and
  - (b) the seizure is necessary to prevent the thing being—
    - (i) concealed, lost or destroyed; or
    - (ii) used to commit, continue or repeat the offence.
- (4) Having seized a thing, an ICRC inspector may—
  - (a) remove the thing from the premises where it was seized (the place of seizure) to another place; or
  - (b) leave the thing at the place of seizure but restrict access to it.
- (5) A person must not, without ICRC's approval, interfere with a thing to which access has been restricted under subsection (4).

Maximum penalty (subsection (5)): 50 penalty units, imprisonment for 6 months or both.

**161 Receipt for things seized**

- (1) As soon as practicable after a thing is seized by an ICRC inspector under this division, the inspector must give a receipt for it to the person from whom it was seized.
- (2) If, for any reason, it is not practicable to comply with subsection (1), the ICRC inspector must leave the receipt at the place of seizure in a reasonably secure way and in a conspicuous position.

**162 Access to things seized**

A person who would, but for the seizure, be entitled to a thing seized under this division may—

- (a) inspect it; and
- (b) if it is a document—take extracts from it or make copies of it.

**163 Return of things seized**

- (1) A thing seized under this division must be returned to its owner, or reasonable compensation must be paid to the owner by ICRC for the loss of the thing, if—
  - (a) a prosecution for an offence relating to the thing is not instituted within 90 days of the seizure; or
  - (b) the court does not find the offence proved in a prosecution for an offence relating to the thing.
- (2) A thing seized under this division is forfeited to ICRC if a court—
  - (a) finds an offence relating to the thing to be proved; and
  - (b) orders the forfeiture.
- (3) If subsection (2) (a) applies, but a court does not order forfeiture of the thing seized, ICRC must return the thing to its owner or pay reasonable compensation to the owner in relation to the loss of the thing.

## **Division 10.5            Miscellaneous**

### **166            Self-incrimination etc**

- (1) A person is not excused from providing information, producing a document or answering a question when required to do so under this part on the ground that the information, document or answer might tend to incriminate the person.

- (2) However—

- (a) the provision of the information, document or answer; or
- (b) any information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence of providing the information, document or answer;

is not admissible in evidence against the person in criminal proceedings, other than proceedings for—

- (c) an offence to which this part applies; or
- (d) any other offence in relation to the falsity of the information, document or answer.

*Note 1* A reference to an offence against a Territory law includes a reference to a related ancillary offence, eg attempt (see [Legislation Act](#), s 189).

*Note 2* The [Legislation Act](#), s 171 deals with the application of client legal privilege.

## Part 11                      Certain causes of action against customer

*Note*        This part applies to NERL retailers (see s 75B).

### 167        Proceedings in Magistrates Court—amounts over \$10 000

- (1) This section applies to a proceeding in relation to—
  - (a) the recovery of a customer debt that is more than \$10 000; or
  - (b) any other cause of action against a customer for more than \$10 000 in relation to which an application to ACAT may be made under part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities).
- (2) A utility may not begin a proceeding to which this section applies against the customer in the Magistrates Court unless the utility has given the customer written notice of its intention to do so.
- (3) The notice—
  - (a) must be given at least 7 days before the day the proceeding is begun; and
  - (b) must include a statement about—
    - (i) the customer's rights to make an application in relation to a complaint to the ACAT under part 12; and
    - (ii) the effect of the *Magistrates Court Act 1930*, section 266 (Complaints under Utilities Act, pt 12).
- (4) In this section:  
*customer debt*—see section 169.

**168 Civil dispute applications to ACAT**

- (1) This section applies in relation to—
  - (a) the recovery of a customer debt; or
  - (b) any other cause of action against a customer in relation to which an application to ACAT may be made under part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities).
- (2) A utility may not make an application to the ACAT under the *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008*, part 4 (Civil disputes) in relation to the debt or cause of action unless the utility has given the customer written notice of its intention to do so.
- (3) The notice—
  - (a) must be given at least 7 days before the day the application is made; and
  - (b) must include a statement about the customer's rights to make an application in relation to a complaint to the ACAT under part 12.
- (4) In this section:  
*customer debt*—see section 169.

## **Part 12**                      **Complaints to ACAT about utilities**

### **Division 12.1**              **Preliminary**

#### **169**              **Definitions—pt 12**

In this part:

*complainant*—see section 172.

*complaint*—see section 172.

*customer debt* means an amount payable by a customer to a utility in relation to the provision of a utility service to premises for the customer.

*registrar* means the registrar of the ACAT.

*respondent*, in relation to a complaint, means the utility the subject of the complaint.

*utility*, in relation to an act or omission, includes a person who was licensed at the time of the act or omission.

*withdrawal*, of a utility service, includes the reduction or termination of the service, whether by disconnection from a network or otherwise.

#### **170**              **Application—pt 12**

This part does not apply to a complaint by a utility.

*Note*              This part applies to NERL retailers and NERL exempt sellers (see s 75B and s 75C).

## 171              Principles—pt 12

In exercising its functions under this part, the ACAT must consider the following principles:

- (a) that utility services should continue to be provided to complainants suffering financial hardship;
- (b) that the rights of complainants under the Act should be protected.

## Division 12.2              Applications to ACAT

### 172              ACAT applications

A person (the *complainant*) mentioned in table 172, column 2 may apply to the ACAT in relation to a matter (the *complaint*) mentioned in column 3 in relation to the complainant.

**Table 172              ACAT applications**

| column 1<br>item | column 2<br>complainant            | column 3<br>complaint                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                | consumer affected by contravention | contravention of customer contract, or customer retail contract or customer connection contract made under the <i>National Energy Retail Law (ACT)</i> , by a utility                                                 |
| 2                | consumer affected by contravention | contravention of an industry code dealing with utility service standards by a utility                                                                                                                                 |
| 3                | consumer                           | a utility fails to provide a utility service to consumer or withdraws a utility service from consumer, and failure or withdrawal causes substantial hardship, or is likely to cause substantial hardship, to consumer |
| 4                | person affected by contravention   | contravention of s 51 (Protection of personal information) by a utility                                                                                                                                               |
| 5                | person affected by contravention   | contravention by a utility or a regulated utility of an obligation in relation to its network operations under this Act or the <i>Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014</i>                                       |



| column 1<br>item | column 2<br>complainant            | column 3<br>complaint                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6                | person affected by act or omission | act or omission of an authorised person for a utility or regulated utility in relation to its network operations under this Act or the <i>Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014</i> |
| 7                | person on whom charge imposed      | capital contribution charge imposed under s 101                                                                                                                                         |

### **173 Help with applications about failure to provide, or withdrawal of, utility services**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) the registrar considers that a person making an application, or considering making an application, needs help with the application; and
  - (b) the application is in relation to the failure to provide a utility service to the person or the withdrawal of a utility service from the person.
- (2) The registrar must ask the person whether the person wants the registrar to put the application in writing for the person.
- (3) If the person wants the registrar to put the application in writing, the registrar must do so.
- (4) This section is in addition to the *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008*, section 112 (1) (b) (Functions of registrar—other).

### **174 Advising Minister etc about systemic problems**

- (1) This section applies if it appears to the ACAT that applications under this part to the ACAT indicate a systemic problem in relation to—
  - (a) the operation of this part; or

- (b) other matters that come to the ACAT's attention in the course of exercising its functions under this part.
- (2) The ACAT must tell the following about the problem:
  - (a) each Minister responsible for administering the Act;
  - (b) the ICRC.
- (3) This section is in addition to the *ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008*, section 105A (Advising Attorney-General about systemic problems).

## **Division 12.3 Preliminary inquiries**

### **175 Preliminary inquiries—registrar**

If a person makes a complaint, the registrar may make inquiries of the person, respondent or anyone else to decide—

- (a) whether this part applies to the matter complained of; and
- (b) if so, whether the ACAT should consider the matter.

## **Division 12.4 Dismissal of complaints**

### **176 Dismissal of complaints about utilities**

- (1) The ACAT may dismiss a complaint about a utility if satisfied that—
  - (a) this part does not apply to the matter complained of; or
  - (b) the complaint has been withdrawn or abandoned (for example, because the complainant fails to proceed with the complaint within a reasonable time); or
  - (c) the complaint relates to a matter, or the last of a series of matters, that happened more than 1 year before the day the complaint was made; or

- (d) if the registrar makes an inquiry under section 175 of the person making the complaint—the person has not responded to the inquiry; or
- (e) the complainant has not made reasonable efforts to resolve the matter complained of with the utility, particularly in accordance with the utility's complaint handling procedures; or
- (f) the matter complained of has already been dealt with adequately by the ACAT or otherwise; or
- (g) a remedy more appropriate than action under this part is readily available to the complainant; or
- (h) it is otherwise appropriate to do so.

*Note* The ACAT may dismiss an application if it is frivolous or vexatious, lacking in substance or otherwise an abuse of process (see [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#), s 32).

- (2) If the ACAT dismisses a complaint, it must give each party written notice of the dismissal, setting out its reasons for the dismissal.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

## **Division 12.5 Powers and decisions of ACAT**

### **177 Complainant's records**

- (1) This section applies if a complainant makes a complaint about a utility.
- (2) The utility must give the ACAT the utility's records, or access to the records, in relation to the complainant.
- (3) The complainant is taken to consent to the disclosure of the records to the ACAT.

*Note* See s 51 (Protection of personal information).

## **178 ACAT decisions**

- (1) This section applies if the ACAT is satisfied, in relation to a complainant, that—
  - (a) the respondent has—
    - (i) contravened a customer contract; or
    - (ii) contravened section 51 (Protection of personal information); or
    - (iii) contravened an obligation under this Act in relation to its network operations; or
  - (b) the respondent has caused, or would cause, substantial hardship by failing to provide, or withdrawing, a utility service; or
  - (c) an authorised person for the respondent has acted improperly in relation to network operations; or
  - (d) a capital contribution charge, of an amount of not more than \$10 000, imposed by the respondent is excessive.
- (2) Without limiting the orders the ACAT may make, the ACAT may—
  - (a) for a complaint that a capital contribution charge is excessive—give a direction under section 182 (Reviewable capital contribution charges); or
  - (b) in any other case—
    - (i) give the written directions to the respondent that it considers necessary requiring the respondent to remedy the matter mentioned in subsection (1); or
    - (ii) give another direction under this division; or
    - (iii) make a declaration under this division.
- (3) A respondent must comply with a direction given to it under this division.

**179 Continuity of utility services—nonpayment of customer debt**

- (1) This section applies to a complaint about the actual or potential withdrawal of a utility service because of a failure to pay a customer debt in relation to residential premises.
- (2) If the ACAT is satisfied that the withdrawal of the utility services causes, or would cause, substantial hardship for a consumer, the ACAT may give the respondent a written direction—
  - (a) not to withdraw the service; or
  - (b) if the service has been withdrawn—to restore the service as soon as practicable and, in any event, within 24 hours after the direction is given to the respondent.
- (3) A direction may contain ancillary directions, for example, that the service not be withdrawn—
  - (a) during a stated period; or
  - (b) unless the consumer fails to comply with a stated condition.

*Note* See the national energy retail rules, pt 6 (De-energisation (or disconnection) of premises—small customers).

**180 Discharge of customer debt**

- (1) If the ACAT is satisfied that payment of a customer debt in relation to residential premises would cause substantial hardship for the customer, the ACAT may, in writing, declare that the debt is discharged in whole or to a stated extent.
- (2) The declaration may provide that the discharge is conditional on payment by the customer of a stated amount or amounts in accordance with the declaration.
- (3) A declaration has effect for all purposes according to its terms.

- (4) The amount of the debt discharged by a declaration may not be more than—
  - (a) \$10 000; or
  - (b) if another amount is prescribed by regulation—the prescribed amount.

## **181 Payment for loss or damage**

- (1) If the ACAT is satisfied that a complainant suffered loss or damage because of an act by the respondent, or an authorised person for the respondent, of a kind mentioned in section 178 (ACAT decisions), the ACAT may give the respondent a written direction to pay a stated amount to the complainant for the loss or damage.
- (2) The direction may not be given in relation to a punitive amount.
- (3) The amount payable under the direction is a debt due to the complainant in whose favour the direction is given.
- (4) In giving the direction, the ACAT must take account of the extent (if any) to which the complainant—
  - (a) caused, or contributed to, the loss or damage; or
  - (b) obstructed, or interfered with, the exercise of the respondent's functions under this Act.
- (5) The amount stated in a direction may not be more than \$25 000.
- (6) The registrar must, if asked by the complainant in whose favour a direction is made, give the complainant a copy of the direction certified by the registrar.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

**182 Reviewable capital contribution charges**

- (1) This section applies if the ACAT is satisfied that a capital contribution charge imposed by the respondent is excessive.
- (2) The ACAT may give the respondent a written direction to reduce the charge to the amount stated in the direction.
- (3) For subsection (2), the ACAT must state an amount that it considers reasonable having regard to—
  - (a) the cost of the work to which the charge relates; and
  - (b) the relevant industry code.
- (4) The ACAT may only give a direction under subsection (2) in relation to a capital contribution charge of not more than \$10 000.
- (5) To remove any doubt, this section is additional to, and does not limit—
  - (a) section 179 (Continuity of utility services—nonpayment of customer debt); and
  - (b) section 180 (Discharge of customer debt).

**183 Reimbursement of utilities for customer debts discharged**

If a customer debt owed to a utility is discharged under section 180 (Discharge of customer debt), the amount discharged is a debt due to the utility by the Territory.

**Division 12.6 Confidential information**

**184 Protection of confidential information**

- (1) The ACAT must preserve the confidentiality of information disclosed to, or obtained by, the ACAT in the exercise of its functions under this part, including—
  - (a) personal information; and

- (b) information that—
  - (i) could affect the competitive position of a utility or someone else; or
  - (ii) is commercially sensitive for another reason.
- (2) The [ICRC Act](#), sections 44 to 48 apply, so far as applicable, in relation to the functions of the ACAT under this part as if—
  - (a) a reference to the ICRC were a reference to any of the following:
    - (i) the ACAT;
    - (ii) a person who is or has been an ACAT member;
    - (iii) a person who is or has been a member of the staff of the ACAT;
    - (iv) a person who is or has been acting under the direction or authority of the ACAT; and
  - (b) any other necessary changes were made.
- (3) In this section:  
*ACAT member*—see the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#), dictionary, definition of *tribunal member*.



## Part 13 Community service obligations

### 219 Purposes of pt 13

The purposes of this part are—

- (a) to oblige utilities to provide utility services in accordance with relevant Government programs, for example, for community services, the environment or other social issues; and
- (b) to achieve that result by agreement with particular utilities or, where agreement is not reached, by directions under this part; and
- (c) to provide utilities with a reasonable recompense for the provision of services in accordance with such directions.

*Note* This part applies to NERL retailers (see s 75).

### 220 Agreement to be sought

A direction must not be given under section 221 unless the responsible Minister is satisfied that, despite all reasonable efforts having been made, no agreement has been reached with the utility about achieving the intended result or about the liability for the associated costs.

### 221 Direction by Minister

- (1) The Minister responsible for a Government program may give a written direction to a utility to take stated action that the Minister considers appropriate to ensure that the utility's services are provided in accordance with the program.

- (2) A direction may, for example, require the utility to provide particular services to particular classes of people free of charge, at stated charges or subject to stated discounts or rebates.
- (3) A direction must state the Minister's estimate of the cost to be incurred by the utility in complying with the direction.

## **222 Determination of costs**

The cost of giving effect to a direction under section 221 is—

- (a) in relation to a utility service of a kind currently provided by the utility—the additional cost that would be avoided by the utility if it did not give effect to the direction; and
- (b) in relation to a proposed utility service—the cost that would be incurred by the utility in providing the service in accordance with the direction.

## **223 Liability for costs**

- (1) A direction under section 221 has no effect unless the Treasurer certifies in writing that proper arrangements exist for the Territory to pay to the utility the amount of the costs—
  - (a) stated in the direction; or
  - (b) where a dispute about the cost is determined by arbitration because of section 225—as so determined.
- (2) Where a direction is given to a utility, the amount of the costs fixed in accordance with subsection (1) is a debt due to the utility by the Territory.

## **224 Compliance with direction**

A utility must comply with a direction given to it under section 221.

**225 Arbitration of dispute about cost**

- (1) If the responsible Minister and the utility concerned dispute the cost of complying with a direction under section 221, either party may refer the dispute to ICRC for arbitration.
- (2) ICRC must arbitrate a dispute so referred.
- (3) The following provisions of the [ICRC Act](#), part 6 apply, so far as applicable, to the arbitration:
  - (a) section 33 (1), (2) and (5) (appointment and powers of arbitrator);
  - (b) section 34 (draft determinations);
  - (c) section 36 (1) (parties to give effect to determination);
  - (d) section 37 (termination by parties);
  - (e) section 38, but not paragraph (d) (termination by arbitrator);
  - (f) section 39 (variation of arbitration);
  - (g) section 40 (application of [Commercial Arbitration Act 2017](#)).

## Part 14 Streetlighting and stormwater

### Division 14.1 General

#### 226 Definitions for pt 14

In this part:

**installation**, of a territory network facility, includes—

- (a) the construction or extension of the facility on, over or under any land or water; and
- (b) the attachment of the facility to any building or other structure; and
- (c) any activity that is ancillary or incidental to an activity mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).

**interference**, with a territory network or territory network facility, includes an action that—

- (a) interferes with the safe or efficient operation of the network or facility or is likely to have that effect; or
- (b) inhibits or obstructs lawful access to the network or facility or is likely to have that effect.

**stormwater drainage** means the collection and carriage of water run-off in or through an urban area.

**stormwater network**—see section 227.

**stormwater network boundary**—see section 228.

**stormwater network code**—see section 228.

**streetlighting** does not include streetlighting only for decorative or artistic purposes.

**streetlight network**—see section 229.

***streetlight network code*** means a streetlight network code approved under section 230.

***streetlight network framework***—see section 229A.

***territory network*** means a streetlight network or stormwater network.

***territory network facility*** means any part of the infrastructure of a territory network.

***territory network operations*** means work carried out by or for the Territory under this part for the provision of a territory service.

***territory network protection notice*** means a notice under section 249.

***territory service*** means streetlighting or stormwater drainage.

***territory service authorised person*** means a territory service authorised person under section 242.

## 227 Stormwater network

- (1) For this Act, a ***stormwater network*** is the infrastructure used, or for use, in relation to stormwater drainage.

### Examples of infrastructure

- 1 drains, channels, floodways, mains, pipes, pollutant traps and storage facilities
- 2 access holes, inlet sumps and surcharge sumps
- 3 equipment associated with the infrastructure
- 4 a thing ancillary to the infrastructure

- (2) However, a ***stormwater network*** does not include infrastructure outside the stormwater network boundary and anything else excluded under the stormwater network code.

## 228 Stormwater network code and boundary

- (1) The Minister may approve a ***stormwater network code*** for this part.
- (2) The ***stormwater network boundary*** is to be worked out in accordance with the stormwater network code.

- (3) The code is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## 229 Streetlight network

- (1) For this Act, a ***streetlight network*** is the infrastructure used, or for use, in relation to—
- (a) the provision of streetlighting; and
  - (b) services provided in relation to the provision of streetlighting.

### Examples of infrastructure

- 1 electrical power and control cables, and ducts or pipes for cables
  - 2 switching equipment
  - 3 lamps, brackets, insulators and fittings
  - 4 wires and ducts or pipes for wires or equipment
  - 5 fuses
  - 6 a structure supporting the infrastructure
  - 7 equipment associated with the infrastructure
  - 8 a thing ancillary to the infrastructure
  - 9 service delivery infrastructure connected to and powered by the streetlight network
- (2) However, a ***streetlight network*** does not include infrastructure excluded under the streetlight network code.

## 229A Streetlight network framework

- (1) The Minister may approve a framework for the interaction between the streetlight network and the electricity network (the ***streetlight network framework***).
- (2) The Minister may only approve a streetlight network framework if the electricity distributor agrees to the framework.
- (3) The streetlight network framework must not limit the operation of any other Act or any other legal right.

- (4) An approved streetlight network framework is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **229B Draft streetlight network code**

- (1) The director-general may prepare a draft streetlight network code for this part.
- (2) The draft streetlight network code may set out the following:

- (a) arrangements for the interaction between the Territory and another entity in relation to the streetlight network, including the following:

- (i) the Territory's access to infrastructure owned by the Territory that is installed in a structure not owned by the Territory;
- (ii) an entity's access to infrastructure owned by the entity that is installed in a structure owned by the Territory;
- (iii) resolving disputes in relation to the arrangement;

- (b) arrangements in relation to the appointment of a territory service authorised person for the streetlight network;

*Note* The director-general may appoint a person as a territory service authorised person (see s 242 (1) (a)).

- (c) arrangements for protecting the following in relation to the streetlight network:

- (i) the health or safety of people, including people carrying out work on the streetlight network;
- (ii) public and private property;
- (iii) the environment;

- (d) arrangements for the implementation of a streetlight network framework;

- (e) infrastructure, including a class of infrastructure, to be excluded from the streetlight network;
  - (f) any other matter necessary or convenient to give effect to this part.
- (3) The draft streetlight network code must not limit the operation of any other Act or any other legal right.
- (4) The director-general—
  - (a) must give a copy of the draft streetlight network code to—
    - (i) the construction occupations registrar; and
    - (ii) each regulated utility providing services that are likely to be effected by the operation and maintenance of the streetlight network; and
  - (b) may give a copy of the draft streetlight network code to a person the director-general believes has an interest in the streetlight network.
- (5) A person who is given any copy of the draft streetlight network code under subsection (4) may make a submission to the director-general about the draft streetlight network code within a stated period of not less than 20 days.
- (6) The director-general—
  - (a) must consider a submission made under this section; and
  - (b) may make a recommendation to the Minister about approval of the draft streetlight network code.

## **230 Streetlight network code approval**

- (1) The Minister may approve a draft streetlight network code as recommended by the director-general under section 229B (6) if the Minister is satisfied on reasonable grounds that—
  - (a) section 229B has been complied with; and



- (b) the streetlight network code is consistent with the objects of this Act.
- (2) An approved streetlight network code is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

## **Division 14.2 Territory network operations**

### **Subdivision 14.2.1 General powers**

#### **231 Installation of territory network facilities**

- (1) For the provision of a territory service, the Territory may, at any time—
  - (a) enter and occupy land; and
  - (b) enter and occupy a structure, other than a structure used for residential purposes, that is not owned by the Territory if—
    - (i) the structure is on territory land; and
    - (ii) infrastructure relating to the streetlight network is installed in the structure; and
  - (c) carry out any work on the land that is necessary or desirable for installing a territory network facility.
- (2) Under subsection (1) (c), the Territory may, for example, carry out any of the following work:
  - (a) make surveys, take samples and examine the soil;
  - (b) construct, install or place any plant, machinery, equipment or goods;
  - (c) fell or lop trees, or clear and remove vegetation;
  - (d) interrupt the provision of a territory service by the Territory;
  - (e) make cuttings and excavations;

- (f) level the land or make roads;
  - (g) erect offices, workshops, sheds, other buildings, fences and other structures;
  - (h) demolish, destroy or remove any territory network facility installed or used by the Territory in relation to the provision of a territory service;
  - (i) put a gate or passageway in a fence or wall (except a wall of a building) that prevents or hinders the Territory's work under this section, or remove the gate or passageway;
  - (j) temporarily divert or stop traffic on a public road or bridge;
  - (k) restore the land, or fences, walls or other structures on the land, affected by the Territory's work and, for that purpose, remove and dispose of soil, vegetation and other material.
- (3) This section does not entitle the Territory to act under subsection (1) on land for which it is not the land-holder unless—
- (a) it or the Executive has an appropriate interest in the land; or
  - (b) the owner of the land agrees to the action.
- (4) If subsection (2) (i) applies, the Territory must ensure, so far as practicable, that the work is carried out in a way that minimises inconvenience and disruption to the passage of people, vehicles and vessels.
- (5) Any work undertaken under this section that affects a protected tree is subject to the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), part 3 (Protection of trees).
- Note* Under the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that [Act](#), s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to—
- (a) for a public or regulated tree—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
  - (b) for any other protected tree—an activity approved under that [Act](#), s 28 or s 32 (see that [Act](#), s 18 (1) (c)).

## **232 Maintenance of territory network facilities**

- (1) The Territory may, at any time, maintain a territory network facility and, for that purpose, do anything necessary or desirable, including, for example—
  - (a) entering and occupying land; and
  - (b) entering and occupying a structure, other than a structure used for residential purposes, on territory land; and
  - (c) carrying out any work mentioned in section 231.
- (2) For subsection (1), the maintenance of a territory network facility includes, for example, the following work:
  - (a) the alteration, removal, repair, replacement or cleaning of any part of the facility;
  - (b) the provisioning of the facility with material or information (whether in electronic form or otherwise);
  - (c) inspecting or otherwise ensuring the proper functioning of the facility from time to time;
  - (d) upgrading the facility to—
    - (i) improve the energy efficiency of the network; and
    - (ii) install new technology on the network;
  - (e) action to which a territory network protection notice relates.

- (3) Any work undertaken under this section that affects a protected tree is subject to the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), part 3 (Protection of trees).

*Note* Under the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that [Act](#), s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to—

- (a) for a public or regulated tree—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
- (b) for a registered or remnant tree, if the work is undertaken for protecting life or property in urgent circumstances—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
- (c) for a protected tree in any other case—an activity approved under that [Act](#), s 28 or s 32 (see that [Act](#), s 18 (1) (c)).

## **233 National land**

Functions of the kind exercisable by the Territory under this part are exercisable in relation to national land only by agreement with the Commonwealth.

## **Subdivision 14.2.2 Performance of territory network operations**

### **234 Damage etc to be minimised**

In carrying out territory network operations, the Territory must take all reasonable steps to ensure that it causes as little inconvenience, detriment and damage as is practicable.

### **235 Notice to land-holder**

- (1) Before the Territory begins territory network operations in relation to national land or private land, it must give the land-holder written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (2) The notice must be given to the land-holder at least 7 days before the operations begin.

- (3) The notice must—
- (a) so far as practicable, state the following matters:
    - (i) the purpose of the operations;
    - (ii) the nature of the activities involved;
    - (iii) the parts of the land likely to be affected;
    - (iv) the period or periods during which the activities are expected to be carried out; and
  - (b) contain a statement indicating the Territory's obligations under this part—
    - (i) to take all reasonable steps to ensure that it causes as little inconvenience, detriment and damage as is practicable; and
    - (ii) to remove its property and waste; and
    - (iii) to restore the land.
- (4) The land-holder may waive its right to all or part of the minimum period of notice under subsection (2).
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply if the operations are to be carried out in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
- (a) the integrity of a territory network or territory network facility;  
or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment.

**235A Notice to owner of structure—territory network operations**

- (1) This section applies to territory network operations on infrastructure owned by the Territory and installed in a structure not owned by the Territory, if the structure is on territory land.
- (2) At least 7 days before beginning territory network operations, the Territory must give the owner of the structure written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) The notice must—
  - (a) so far as practicable, state the following matters:
    - (i) the purpose of the operations;
    - (ii) the nature of the activities involved;
    - (iii) the structure to be accessed;
    - (iv) the period or periods during which the operations are expected to be carried out; and
  - (b) state the Territory's obligations under this part.

*Note* The Territory's obligations include taking all reasonable steps to ensure that it causes as little inconvenience, detriment and damage as is practicable (see s 234), removing its property and waste (see s 239) and restoring the land (see s 240).

- (4) The owner of the structure may, in writing, agree to a notice period of less than 7 days.
- (5) However, there is no notice period for territory network operations carried out—
  - (a) in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
    - (i) the integrity of a territory network or territory network facility; or

- (ii) the health or safety of people; or
  - (iii) public or private property; or
  - (iv) the environment; or
- (b) in accordance with an access agreement between the Territory and the owner of the structure, made under a streetlight network code.

**236 Notice about lopping trees etc on private land—territory network operations**

- (1) This section applies to territory network operations to the extent that they involve—
  - (a) the felling or lopping of trees on private land; or
  - (b) the trimming of roots of trees or other plants on private land; or
  - (c) the clearing or removal of vegetation on private land.
- (2) Before the Territory begins the operations, it must give the land-holder written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.

- (3) The notice—
  - (a) must be given at least 7 days before the operations begin; and
  - (b) must indicate the trees or vegetation affected and the activity proposed; and
  - (c) may require the land-holder to carry out the activity within a stated period; and

- (d) if paragraph (c) applies—must contain a statement—
  - (i) about the effect of subsection (6); and
  - (ii) that the land-holder may need approval under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, part 3 (Protection of trees) to carry out the activity; and
- (e) if the operations relate to other territory network operations for which notice is required under this subdivision—may be given in or with the notice of the other operations.

*Note* Under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that *Act*, s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to an activity approved under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, s 28 or s 32 (see that *Act*, s 18 (1) (c)).

- (4) The land-holder may waive its right to all or part of the minimum period of notice under subsection (3) (a).
- (5) If subsection (3) (c) applies, the stated period within which the land-holder is required to carry out the activity must be at least 7 days beginning on the day the notice is given to the land-holder.
- (6) If the land-holder does not carry out the activity in accordance with a requirement in the notice mentioned in subsection (3) (c)—
  - (a) the Territory may carry out the activity; and
  - (b) the reasonable expenses incurred by the Territory in carrying out the activity are a debt owing to the Territory by the land-holder.
- (7) Subsection (6) (b) does not apply to a tree or vegetation growing on the land before a territory network facility was installed on the land.
- (8) Subsection (2) does not apply, and the Territory may carry out the operations at its own expense, in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
  - (a) the integrity of a territory network or a territory network facility;  
or



- (b) the health or safety of people; or
- (c) public or private property; or
- (d) the environment.

**237 Territory network operations affecting heritage significance**

- (1) If a notice under section 235 or section 236 is about territory network operations that may affect a place or object registered, or nominated for provisional registration, under the *Heritage Act 2004*, the Territory must also give a copy of the notice to the heritage council at least 7 days before the day operations begin.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the operations are to be carried out in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
  - (a) the integrity of a territory network or territory network facility; or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment.

**238 Notice to utilities**

- (1) This section applies to territory network operations that consist of, or include, an activity that affects or is reasonably likely to affect a network facility under the care and management of a utility.
- (2) Before the Territory begins the operations, it must give the utility written notice of the proposed operations.

*Note* For how documents may be given, see the *Legislation Act*, pt 19.5.

- (3) The notice must—
  - (a) be given to the utility at least 7 days before the operations begin;  
and
  - (b) so far as practicable, state the following matters:
    - (i) the purpose of the operations;
    - (ii) the nature of the activities involved;
    - (iii) the network facility affected;
    - (iv) the period or periods during which the activities are expected to be carried out.
- (4) The utility may waive its right to notice under subsection (2).
- (5) Subsection (2) does not apply if the operations are to be carried out in urgent circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—
  - (a) the integrity of a territory network or territory network facility;  
or
  - (b) the health or safety of people; or
  - (c) public or private property; or
  - (d) the environment.

## **239 Removal of Territory's property and waste**

- (1) This section applies if the Territory carries out an activity as territory network operations on land for which it is not the land-holder.
- (2) The Territory must, as soon as practicable, remove from the land—
  - (a) all of the following that the Territory constructed, installed or placed on the land and that do not form part of, or are not to be used in the operation of, the territory network facility to which the activity related:
    - (i) items of plant, machinery, equipment and other goods;

- (ii) offices, workshops, sheds and other buildings;
  - (iii) roads and tracks; and
- (b) all spoil, waste and rubbish and cleared vegetation resulting from the activity.
- (3) The obligation in subsection (2) is subject to any agreement to the contrary between the Territory and the land-holder.

#### **240 Land to be restored**

- (1) This section applies if the Territory carries out territory network operations on land for which it is not the land-holder.
- (2) The Territory must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land is restored as soon as practicable to a condition that is similar to its condition before the operations began.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not require the restoration of land to a condition that would involve—
  - (a) an interference with—
    - (i) a territory network or territory network facility; or
    - (ii) a network or network facility; or
  - (b) a contravention of a territory law.
- (4) The obligation in subsection (2) is subject to any agreement to the contrary between the Territory and the land-holder.

#### **241 Compensation**

- (1) A person may claim reasonable compensation from the Territory if the person suffers loss or expense because of territory network operations.
- (2) Compensation may be claimed and ordered in a proceeding for compensation brought in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (3) A court may order the payment of reasonable compensation for the loss or expense only if satisfied it is just to make the order in the circumstances of the particular case.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), a court may take into account whether the Territory has satisfied its obligations under section 239 (Removal of Territory's property and waste) and section 240 (Land to be restored) in considering whether it is just to make an order under this section.

### **Subdivision 14.2.3 Authorised people and entry to premises**

#### **242 Territory service authorised people**

- (1) Each of the following is a territory service authorised person for this part:
  - (a) a person appointed by the director-general;
  - (b) a person appointed by an entity if—
    - (i) the Territory engages the entity to exercise a function under this part; and
    - (ii) the director-general is satisfied that the entity has appropriate arrangements in place for authorising a person as a service authorised person for this part.
- (2) A territory service authorised person must exercise the person's functions under this part in accordance with the conditions of appointment (if any) and any direction given to the person by the appointer.
- (3) In this section:  
*appointer*, for a territory service authorised person, means—
  - (a) the director-general; or
  - (b) for a person appointed under subsection (1) (b)—the entity that appointed the person.

## **243 Identity cards**

- (1) If the Territory engages a utility to exercise a function under this part, the identity card for each territory service authorised person for the utility is the identity card for the person under section 115 (Identity cards).
- (2) If the Territory engages an entity (other than a utility or public servant) to exercise a function under this part, the entity must give each territory service authorised person for the entity an identity card stating the person's name and that the person is a territory service authorised person.
- (3) The director-general must give each territory service authorised person appointed under section 242 (2) an identity card stating the person's name and that the person is a territory service authorised person.
- (4) The identity card mentioned in subsection (2) or (3) must show—
  - (a) a recent photograph of the person; and
  - (b) the card's date of issue and expiry; and
  - (c) anything else prescribed by regulation.
- (5) A person commits an offence if—
  - (a) the person is a person mentioned in subsection (2) or (3); and
  - (b) the person stops being a territory service authorised person; and
  - (c) the person does not return the person's identity card to the appointer as soon as practicable, but no later than 7 days after the day the person stops being a territory service authorised person.

Maximum penalty: 1 penalty unit.

- (6) An offence against this section is a strict liability offence.

- (7) In this section:

*appointer*, for a territory service authorised person—see section 242 (3).

#### **244 Entry to premises—territory network operations**

- (1) If the Territory is authorised under this division to carry out territory network operations affecting particular premises, a territory service authorised person in relation to the operations may—
- (a) enter the premises, with the people, vehicles and things that are necessary and reasonable for the operations; and
  - (b) carry out the activities necessary for the operations.
- (2) The territory service authorised person may not remain on the premises if the person does not produce the person's identity card when asked by the land-holder or person apparently in charge of the premises.
- (3) The territory service authorised person may enter and remain on the premises under this section with the assistance that is necessary and reasonable.

#### **245 Entry to premises—inspection of connections etc**

- (1) A territory service authorised person in relation to a territory network may enter and remain on any premises—
- (a) to check work associated with the connection of the premises to the network; or
  - (b) to check the operation of a connection between the premises and the network, or install, repair, remove or replace the connection; or
  - (c) for a purpose related to the connection of the premises to the network, or its withdrawal.

- (2) The territory service authorised person may not remain on the premises if the person does not produce the person's identity card when asked by the land-holder or person apparently in charge of the premises.
- (3) The territory service authorised person may enter and remain on the premises under this section—
  - (a) at any reasonable time; and
  - (b) with the assistance that is necessary and reasonable.

#### **Subdivision 14.2.4 Miscellaneous**

##### **246 Order to enforce exercise of functions**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) a territory service authorised person is entitled to exercise a function under this division in relation to premises; and
  - (b) someone obstructs, or proposes to obstruct, the authorised person in the exercise of the function.
- (2) The Magistrates Court may, on the application of the territory service authorised person, make an order authorising a police officer or anyone else named in the order to use the assistance and force that are necessary and reasonable to enable the function to be exercised.
- (3) A copy of an application under subsection (2) must be given to the obstructor, and the obstructor is entitled to appear and be heard on the hearing of the application.

##### **247 Ownership of territory network facilities**

The owner or occupier of land to which a territory network facility is attached has no proprietary interest in the facility only because it is attached to the land.

## Division 14.3      Protection of territory networks

### 248      Interference with territory networks

A person commits an offence if the person—

- (a) does something that interferes with a territory network or a territory network facility; and
- (b) is reckless about whether doing the thing would interfere with the network or facility.

Maximum penalty: 200 penalty units, imprisonment for 2 years or both.

### 249      Territory network protection notices

- (1) This section applies if the Territory is satisfied that a structure, tree or activity on, under or over land or water interferes, or is reasonably likely to interfere, with a territory network or territory network facility.
- (2) For a structure or tree, the Territory may give the land-holder written notice to take whatever action is necessary to stop the interference with the network or facility, or to remove the likelihood of that interference.

*Note*      For how documents may be given, see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.5.
- (3) For an activity, the Territory may give the relevant person written notice to take whatever action is necessary to stop the interference with the network or facility, or to remove the likelihood of that interference.
- (4) The notice must—
  - (a) indicate the structure, tree or activity; and
  - (b) require the person given the notice to take stated action to stop the interference, or remove the likelihood of the interference, within a stated period; and



- (c) contain a statement about the effect of subsection (6).
- (5) The stated period must be at least 7 days, starting on the day the notice is given.
- (6) If the person given the notice does not comply with the notice—
  - (a) the Territory may do whatever is necessary to stop the interference or remove the likelihood of the interference; and
  - (b) the reasonable expenses incurred by the Territory to stop the interference or remove the likelihood of the interference are a debt owing to the Territory by the person given the notice.
- (7) Subsection (6) (b) does not apply to a structure or tree that was, or an activity that began, on, under or over the land before the installation of the territory network or territory network facility to which the interference relates.
- (8) In urgent circumstances the Territory may, without giving a notice under subsection (2) or subsection (3) and at the Territory's expense, do whatever is necessary to stop the interference or remove the likelihood of the interference.
- (9) If both of the following happen, the amount of the loss or damage is a debt owing to the person by the Territory:
  - (a) the Territory acts under this section in relation to a structure or tree that was, or an activity that began, on, under or over the land before the installation of the territory network or territory network facility to which the interference relates;
  - (b) the person suffers loss or damage because of the Territory's action.

- (10) Any work undertaken under this section in relation to a protected tree is subject to the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, part 3 (Protection of trees).

*Note* Under the *Urban Forest Act 2023*, pt 3 it is an offence to damage a protected tree or do prohibited groundwork in the tree's protection zone (see that *Act*, s 16 and s 17). However, the offences do not apply to—

- (a) for a public or regulated tree—anything done in relation to the tree under this section; or
- (b) for any other protected tree—an activity approved under that *Act*, s 28 or s 32 (see that *Act*, s 18 (1) (c)).

- (11) In this section:

**activity** does not include an activity done by or for a utility under this Act.

**person given the notice** means—

- (a) for a structure or tree—the land-holder; or
- (b) for an activity—the relevant person.

**relevant person**, in relation to an activity, means—

- (a) the person carrying out the activity; or
- (b) the person on whose behalf the activity is being carried out.

**urgent circumstances** means circumstances in which it is necessary to protect—

- (a) the integrity of the network or facility; or
- (b) the health or safety of people; or
- (c) public or private property; or
- (d) the environment.

**250      Territory network protection action affecting heritage  
                 significance**

- (1) If a notice under section 249 is about action that may affect a place or object registered, or nominated for provisional registration, under the *Heritage Act 2004*, the Territory must also give a copy of the notice to the heritage council as soon as practicable.
- (2) If the Territory acts in urgent circumstances as mentioned in section 249 (8), it must give the heritage council written notice of the action as soon as practicable.

## Part 15 Vicarious liability

### 251 References in pt 15 to *proceeding under this Act*

A reference in this part to a *proceeding under this Act* includes a reference to—

- (a) an action under this Act; and
- (b) proceeding for an offence against this Act.

*Note* A reference to an offence against a Territory law includes a reference to a related ancillary offence, eg attempt (see [Legislation Act](#), s 189).

### 252 Liability of corporations

- (1) If, in a proceeding under this Act in relation to conduct engaged in by a corporation, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of the corporation, it is sufficient to show that—
  - (a) a director, employee or agent of the corporation engaged in that conduct; and
  - (b) the director, employee or agent was, in engaging in that conduct, acting within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and
  - (c) the director, employee or agent had that state of mind.
- (2) If—
  - (a) conduct is engaged in on behalf of a corporation by a director, employee or agent of the corporation; and
  - (b) the conduct is within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority;

the conduct is taken, for the purposes of a proceeding under this Act, to have been engaged in by the corporation unless the corporation establishes that it took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the conduct.

- (3) A reference in subsection (1) to the *state of mind* of a person includes a reference to—
  - (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
  - (b) the person's reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.
- (4) A reference in this section to a *director* of a corporation includes a reference to a constituent member of a body corporate incorporated for a public purpose by a law of the Territory, the Commonwealth, a State or another Territory.
- (5) A reference in this section to engaging in conduct includes a reference to failing or refusing to engage in conduct.

### **253 Liability of people other than corporations**

- (1) This section does not apply to a proceeding for an offence against section 21 (Requirement for licence).
- (2) If, in a proceeding under this Act in relation to conduct engaged in by a person other than a corporation, it is necessary to establish the state of mind of the person, it is sufficient to show that—
  - (a) the conduct was engaged in by an employee or agent of the person within the scope of his or her actual or apparent authority; and
  - (b) the employee or agent had that state of mind.

## (3) If—

- (a) conduct is engaged in on behalf of a person other than a corporation by an employee or agent of the person; and
- (b) the conduct is within the employee's or agent's actual or apparent authority;

the conduct is taken, for the purposes of a proceeding under this Act, to have been engaged in by the person unless the person establishes that he or she took reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to avoid the conduct.

## (4) Despite any other provision of this Act, if—

- (a) a person is convicted of an offence; and
- (b) the person would not have been convicted of the offence if subsections (2) and (3) had not been in force;

the person is not liable to be punished by imprisonment for that offence.

(5) A reference in this section to the *state of mind* of a person includes a reference to—

- (a) the knowledge, intention, opinion, belief or purpose of the person; and
- (b) the person's reasons for the intention, opinion, belief or purpose.

(6) A reference in this section to *engaging* in conduct includes a reference to failing or refusing to engage in conduct.

## Part 16 Miscellaneous

### 254 Determination of fees

- (1) This section does not apply to an annual licence fee.
- (2) The ICRC may determine fees for this Act (other than part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities) and part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)).

*Note* The [Legislation Act](#) contains provisions about the making of determinations and regulations relating to fees (see pt 6.3).

- (3) The Minister may determine fees for part 14.
- (4) A determination is a disallowable instrument.

*Note* A disallowable instrument must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

### 255 Approved forms—ICRC

- (1) ICRC may approve forms in relation to its functions under this Act.
- (2) If ICRC approves a form for a particular purpose, the approved form must be used for that purpose.

*Note* For other provisions about forms, see the [Legislation Act](#), s 255.

- (3) An approved form is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

### 256 Approved forms—Minister

- (1) The Minister may approve forms for this Act except in relation to ICRC's functions under this Act.
- (2) If the Minister approves a form for a particular purpose, the approved form must be used for that purpose.

*Note* For other provisions about forms, see the [Legislation Act](#), s 255.

- (3) An approved form is a notifiable instrument.

*Note* A notifiable instrument must be notified under the [Legislation Act](#).

**257 Evidentiary certificate—Government programs**

For this Act or a related law, a certificate signed by the Minister stating whether a matter is, or is part of, a Government program is evidence of the matter so stated.

**258 Evidence of authorisation by utility**

For this Act or a related law, a certificate that appears to be signed by or on behalf of a utility and contains a statement to the effect that—

- (a) a stated thing was done by a stated person in accordance with an authorisation by the utility; or
- (b) an authorisation by the utility was subject to a stated condition at a stated time or date;

is evidence of the matters stated.

**259 Former water and sewerage rates schemes—extended operation**

- (1) Despite the repeal of the [Water Rates Act 1959](#), the following provisions have effect:
- (a) the provisions of that Act immediately before the repeal continue to apply in relation to—
    - (i) an amount payable under that Act immediately before the repeal; or
    - (ii) an amount payable because of the operation of paragraph (b);



- (b) until a standard customer contract takes effect in relation to the provision of a utility service for water, the conditions applying to the provision of the service (including conditions concerning amounts payable) are the conditions that would have applied but for the repeal of that Act.
- (2) Despite the repeal of the *Sewerage Rates Act 1968*, the following provisions have effect:
  - (a) the provisions of that Act immediately before the repeal continue to apply in relation to—
    - (i) an amount payable under that Act immediately before the repeal; or
    - (ii) an amount payable because of the operation of paragraph (b);
  - (b) until a standard customer contract takes effect in relation to the provision of sewerage services, the conditions applying to the provision of the service (including conditions concerning amounts payable) are the conditions that would have applied but for the repeal of that Act.

## **260 Compensation—safety net**

- (1) If—
  - (a) apart from this section, division 9.2 (Compensation) and section 241 (Compensation), the operation of any provision of this Act would result in the acquisition of property from a person otherwise than on just terms; and
  - (b) the acquisition would be unlawful because of the *Self-Government Act*, section 23 (1);

the person acquiring the property (the *acquirer*) is liable to pay reasonable compensation to the other person in relation to the acquisition.

- (2) If the acquirer and the other person do not agree on the amount of compensation, the other person may, in a court of competent jurisdiction, recover from the acquirer such reasonable compensation as the court determines.

**260A      Reminder notices and disconnection warning notices—  
ACAT direction**

- (1) The ACAT may give a written direction to a NERL retailer or NERL distributor to include stated particulars in the retailer's reminder notice or disconnection warning notice or the distributor's disconnection warning notice.
- (2) In this section:

***disconnection warning notice***—see the national energy retail rules, rule 110 (1) (Nature of disconnection warning notices).

*Note*      The national energy retail rules, r 110 (Disconnection warning notices—retailers and distributors) sets out the particulars to be included in disconnection warning notices.

***NERL distributor*** means a distributor under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*.

***reminder notice***—see the national energy retail rules, rule 109 (1) (Nature of reminder notices).

*Note*      The national energy retail rules, r 109 (Reminder notices—retailers) sets out the particulars to be included in reminder notices.

**261 Regulation-making power**

- (1) The Executive may make regulations for this Act.

*Note* Regulations must be notified, and presented to the Legislative Assembly, under the [Legislation Act](#).

- (2) A regulation may make provision in relation to the safe or efficient provision of—
- (a) utility services, including provision prohibiting or regulating activities—
    - (i) to ensure the safe or efficient operation of a utility network or network facility; and
    - (ii) to protect people or property in relation to the operation of a utility network or network facility; and
  - (b) territory services, including provision prohibiting or regulating activities—
    - (i) to ensure the safe or efficient operation of a territory network or territory network facility; and
    - (ii) to protect people or property in relation to the operation of a territory network or territory network facility.
- (3) The regulations may also prescribe offences for contraventions of the regulations and prescribe maximum penalties of not more than 10 penalty units for offences against the regulations.

## Part 21 Transitional—COAG Legislation Amendment Act 2025

### 413 References to COAG EC

- (1) A reference to COAG EC in the Act before the commencement day is taken, from 23 October 2020, to be a reference to the Ministerial Council.

*Note* On 23 October 2020, National Cabinet agreed to the review of the Ministerial councils and forums.

- (2) In this section:

**COAG EC**—see the pre-amendment Act, section 54E (7).

**commencement day** means the day the *COAG Legislation Amendment Act 2025*, section 3 commences.

**Ministerial Council**—see section 54E (7).

**pre-amendment Act** means the *Utilities Act 2000*, as in force immediately before the commencement day.

### 414 Transitional regulations

- (1) A regulation may prescribe transitional matters necessary or convenient to be prescribed because of the enactment of the *COAG Legislation Amendment Act 2025*.
- (2) A regulation may modify this part (including in relation to another territory law) to make provision in relation to anything that, in the Executive's opinion, is not, or is not adequately or appropriately, dealt with in this part.
- (3) A regulation under subsection (2) has effect despite anything elsewhere in this Act or another territory law.

**415      Expiry—pt 21**

This part expires 2 years after the commencement day.

*Note*      A transitional provision is repealed on its expiry but continues to have effect after its repeal (see [Legislation Act](#), s 88).

## Schedule 1      Reviewable decisions

(see div 3.3A)

| column 1<br>item | column 2<br>section | column 3<br>decision                        | column 4<br>entity           |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1                | 37                  | refuse to grant<br>licence                  | applicant for licence        |
| 2                | 37                  | grant licence<br>subject to<br>condition    | applicant for licence        |
| 3                | 38                  | refuse to vary<br>licence                   | licensee                     |
| 4                | 38                  | vary licence on<br>ICRC's own<br>initiative | licensee                     |
| 5                | 40                  | refuse to agree to<br>transfer of licence   | licensee                     |
| 6                | 42                  | revoke a licence                            | person whose licence revoked |

## Dictionary

(see s 4)

*Note 1* The [Legislation Act](#) contains definitions and other provisions relevant to this Act.

*Note 2* For example, the [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1, defines the following terms:

- ACAT
- Australian citizen
- Australian Consumer Law (ACT)
- commissioner for revenue
- construction occupations registrar
- corporation
- director-general (see s 163)
- disallowable instrument (see s 9)
- exercise
- function
- magistrate
- Magistrates Court
- Minister (see s 162)
- national land
- notifiable instrument (see s 10)
- public servant
- reviewable decision notice
- State
- the Territory.

***administrator***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54N.

***annual licence fee***, for a licence, means the fee determined under section 45 (Determination of fee) for the licence for the relevant financial year.

***approved meter***, for division 6.4 (Passing on supply costs)—see section 97.

***authorised person*** means a person appointed as an authorised person under section 114.

***base amount***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54G (3).

***capital contribution charge***—see section 101 (Capital contribution charges—network development).

***complainant***, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 172.

***complaint***, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 172.

***connected*** with an offence, for part 10 (Enforcement)—see section 150.

***consumer***, in relation to a utility service, means—

- (a) a customer for the service; or
- (b) an occupier of a customer's premises to which the service is provided;

and includes an invitee of the customer or occupier.

***controller***—see section 135 (Appointment of controller).

***customer***—see section 17 (Customers).

***customer contract*** means—

- (a) a standard customer contract; or
- (b) a negotiated customer contract; or
- (c) a customer connection contract under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*.

***customer debt***, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 169.



***data storage device*** means any article or material (for example, a disk) from which information is capable of being reproduced, with or without the aid of any other article or device.

***determined***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54A.

***electricity connection service*** means a connection service within the meaning of the national electricity rules, chapter 5A (Electricity connection for retail customers).

***electricity distribution network***—see section 7 (2).

***electricity distributor***—

- (a) means a utility licensed for the distribution of electricity through an electricity network; and
- (b) in relation to an electricity connection service for premises—means a utility licensed to provide the service for the premises.

***electricity network***—see section 7.

***electricity transmission network***—see section 7 (1).

***energy industry sector***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54D (1).

***energy utility***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54D (2).

***energy utility service***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54D (3).

***essential service***, for part 9A (Shortage of essential services)—see section 149A.

***essential service restriction***, for part 9A (Shortage of essential services)—see section 149A.

***franchise customer***—see section 17 (Customers).

***gas***—see section 8.

**gas connection service** means a connection service within the meaning of the national gas rules, part 12A (Gas connection for retail customers).

**gas distribution network**—see section 10 (2).

**gas distributor**—

- (a) means a utility licensed for the distribution of gas through a gas network; and
- (b) in relation to a gas connection service for premises—means a utility licensed to provide the service for the premises.

**gas network**—see section 10 (Gas networks).

**gas transmission network**—see section 10 (1).

**ICRC** means the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission.

**ICRC Act** means the [Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Act 1997](#).

**ICRC inspector** means a person appointed as an ICRC inspector under section 152.

**industry code**, for a utility service, means an industry code approved or determined under part 4 (Industry codes) that applies to the service.

**installation**—

- (a) of a network facility, for part 7 (Network operations)—see section 103; and
- (b) of a territory network facility, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

**interference**, with a territory network or territory network facility, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

**land-holder**—

- (a) in relation to private land, means—
  - (i) an owner of the land; or
  - (ii) if the land is occupied by a person other than the owner—  
an occupier of the land; and
- (b) in relation to unleased Territory land—means the Territory; and
- (c) in relation to national land—means the Commonwealth, and includes a lessee of the land.

**land sublease**—see the [Planning Act 2023](#), dictionary.

**levy**, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54A.

**levy year**, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54C (1).

**licence** means a licence under this Act.

**local regulatory cost**, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54F (1).

**National Electricity (ACT) Law** means the provisions applying in the ACT because of the [Electricity \(National Scheme\) Act 1997](#), section 5 (Application in ACT of National Electricity Law).

*Note* The [Electricity \(National Scheme\) Act 1997](#), s 5 applies the National Electricity Law set out in the [National Electricity \(South Australia\) Act 1996](#) (SA), schedule as if it were an ACT law called the *National Electricity (ACT) Law*.

**national electricity rules** means the National Electricity Rules under the *National Electricity (ACT) Law*.

***National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*** means the provisions applying in the ACT because of the [National Energy Retail Law \(ACT\) Act 2012](#), section 6 (Application of National Energy Retail Law).

*Note* The [National Energy Retail Law \(ACT\) Act 2012](#), s 6 and s 7 apply the National Energy Retail Law set out in the [National Energy Retail Law \(South Australia\) Act 2011](#) (SA), schedule as if it were an ACT law called the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*.

***national energy retail rules*** means the National Energy Retail Rules under the *National Energy Retail Law (ACT)*.

***National Gas (ACT) Law*** means the provisions applying because of the [National Gas \(ACT\) Act 2008](#), section 8 (Application in the ACT of National Gas Law).

*Note* The [National Gas \(ACT\) Act 2008](#), s 8 applies the National Gas Law set out in the [National Gas \(South Australia\) Act 2008](#) (SA), schedule as if it were an ACT law called the *National Gas (ACT) Law*.

***National Gas (ACT) Regulation*** means the provisions applying because of the [National Gas \(ACT\) Act 2008](#), section 9 (Application in the ACT of regulations under National Gas Law).

*Note* The [National Gas \(ACT\) Act 2008](#), s 9 applies the regulations under the [National Gas \(South Australia\) Act 2008](#) (SA), pt 3 as an ACT law called the *National Gas (ACT) Regulation*.

***national gas rules*** means the National Gas Rules under the *National Gas (ACT) Law*.

***national regulatory cost***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54E (2).

***national regulatory obligations***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54E (1).

***negotiated customer contract*** means a contract to which section 95 (Negotiated customer contracts) applies.

***NERL exempt seller***—see section 75A.

***NERL retailer***—see section 75.

**net regulatory cost**, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54G (2).

**network** means any of the following:

- (a) an electricity network;
- (b) a gas network;
- (c) a sewerage network;
- (d) a water network;
- (e) a network prescribed for a prescribed utility service under section 15 (Prescribed utility services).

**network boundary** means a boundary worked out under the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), section 53 (Network boundary).

**network facility** means any part of the infrastructure of a network.

**network operations**, for part 7 (Network operations)—see section 103.

**network protection notice** means a notice under the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), section 32.

**non-franchise customer**—see section 17 (Customers).

**occupier**, of premises—

- (a) for this Act—means a person who has, or is entitled to, lawful possession or control of the premises (whether alone or together with 1 or more other people); or
- (b) for part 10 (Enforcement)—see section 150.

**offence**, for part 10 (Enforcement)—see section 150.

**owner**, of land or premises, means—

- (a) a person who owns the land or premises; or
- (b) a lessee of the land or premises under a lease granted by or for the Commonwealth; or

(c) for a unit under the [Unit Titles Act 2001](#)—the unit owner; or

(d) for land held under a land sublease—the sublessee;

whether alone or together with 1 or more other people.

**personal information**—see the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cwlth), section 6 (Interpretation), but does not include information available to a section of the public.

**premises** includes land and place.

**private land** means land other than public land.

**proceeding under this Act**, for part 15 (Vicarious liability)—see section 251.

**protected tree**—see the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), section 9.

**public land** means national land or unleased Territory land.

**registrar**, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 169.

**regulated utility**—see the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), section 8.

**regulatory cost**, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54G (1).

**related law** means the [ICRC Act](#).

*Note* A reference to an Act includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the Act, including regulations (see [Legislation Act](#), s 104).

**respondent**, for an application in relation to a complaint, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 169.

**responsible utility**, for a network or network facility, means a utility licensed to provide utility services using the network or network facility.

**reviewable decision**, for division 3.3A (Notification and review of ICRC decisions)—see section 43.

***satisfied*** means satisfied on reasonable grounds.

***sewerage connection service***—see section 85.

***sewerage network***—see section 14.

***sewerage service*** means the conveyance, collection, treatment and disposal of sewage by a person from the premises of another person.

***sewerage utility***, in relation to the provision of a sewerage connection service or sewerage service for premises, means a utility licensed to provide the relevant service for the premises.

***standard customer contract***—see section 92 (Creation of standard customer contracts).

***stormwater drainage***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

***stormwater network***—see section 227.

***stormwater network boundary***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 228.

***stormwater network code***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 228.

***streetlighting***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

***streetlight network***—see section 229.

***streetlight network code***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

***streetlight network framework***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 229A.

***technical code*** means a technical code approved under the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), section 14.

***technical inspector*** means a person appointed as a technical inspector under the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), section 81.

***technical regulator*** means the technical regulator under the [Utilities \(Technical Regulation\) Act 2014](#), section 77.

***territory network***—see section 226.

***territory network facility***—see section 226.

***territory network operations***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

***territory network protection notice***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

***territory service***—see section 226.

***territory service authorised person***, for part 14 (Streetlighting and stormwater)—see section 226.

***utility***—

- (a) for this Act generally—means a person licensed to provide a utility service; or
- (b) for part 9 (Controller’s power to take over operations)—see section 134; or
- (c) in relation to an act or omission, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 169.

***utility service***—

- (a) for this Act generally—
  - (i) in relation to electricity—see section 6 (Electricity services); and
  - (ii) in relation to gas—see section 9 (Gas services); and
  - (iii) in relation to water—see section 11 (Water services); and



- (iv) in relation to sewerage—see section 13 (Sewerage services); and
- (v) includes a service prescribed to be a utility service under section 15 (Prescribed utility services); and
- (b) for division 6.2 (Standard customer contracts)—see section 86A.

***water connection service***—see section 83 (Water connection service).

***water network***—see section 12 (Water network).

***water supplier***, in relation to the supply of water to premises, means a utility licensed to supply water to the premises.

***withdrawal***, of a utility service, for part 12 (Complaints to ACAT about utilities)—see section 169.

***year***, for part 3A (Energy industry levy)—see section 54A.

## Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

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## Endnotes

### 1 About the endnotes

Amending and modifying laws are annotated in the legislation history and the amendment history. Current modifications are not included in the republished law but are set out in the endnotes.

Not all editorial amendments made under the [Legislation Act 2001](#), part 11.3 are annotated in the amendment history. Full details of any amendments can be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

Uncommenced amending laws are not included in the republished law. The details of these laws are underlined in the legislation history. Uncommenced expiries are underlined in the legislation history and amendment history.

If all the provisions of the law have been renumbered, a table of renumbered provisions gives details of previous and current numbering.

The endnotes also include a table of earlier republications.

### 2 Abbreviation key

|                                                     |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A = Act                                             | NI = Notifiable instrument                                        |
| AF = Approved form                                  | o = order                                                         |
| am = amended                                        | om = omitted/repealed                                             |
| amdt = amendment                                    | ord = ordinance                                                   |
| AR = Assembly resolution                            | orig = original                                                   |
| ch = chapter                                        | par = paragraph/subparagraph                                      |
| CN = Commencement notice                            | pres = present                                                    |
| def = definition                                    | prev = previous                                                   |
| DI = Disallowable instrument                        | (prev...) = previously                                            |
| dict = dictionary                                   | pt = part                                                         |
| disallowed = disallowed by the Legislative Assembly | r = rule/subrule                                                  |
| div = division                                      | reloc = relocated                                                 |
| exp = expires/expired                               | renum = renumbered                                                |
| Gaz = gazette                                       | R[X] = Republication No                                           |
| hdg = heading                                       | RI = reissue                                                      |
| IA = Interpretation Act 1967                        | s = section/subsection                                            |
| ins = inserted/added                                | sch = schedule                                                    |
| LA = Legislation Act 2001                           | sdiv = subdivision                                                |
| LR = legislation register                           | SL = Subordinate law                                              |
| LRA = Legislation (Republication) Act 1996          | sub = substituted                                                 |
| mod = modified/modification                         | <u>underlining</u> = whole or part not commenced or to be expired |

### 3 Legislation history

#### **Utilities Act 2000 A2000-65**

notified 20 December 2000 (Gaz 2000 No S68)  
s 1, s 2 commenced 20 December 2000 (IA s 10B)  
pt 11, pt 12 commenced 1 March 2001 (Gaz 2000 No S69)  
div 16.3 commenced 20 June 2001 (s 2 (2) (a))  
s 249 commenced 20 June 2001 (s 2 (2) (a) but see Gaz 2000 No S69)  
s 250 commenced 1 June 2001 (Gaz 2000 No S69)  
remainder commenced 1 January 2001 (Gaz 2000 No S69)

as amended by

#### **Legislation (Consequential Amendments) Act 2001 A2001-44 pt 405**

notified 26 July 2001 (Gaz 2001 No 30)  
s 1, s 2 commenced 26 July 2001 (IA s 10B)  
pt 405 commenced 12 September 2001 (s 2 and see Gaz 2001 No S65)

#### **Statute Law Amendment Act 2001 (No 2) A2001-56 pt 3.52**

notified 5 September 2001 (Gaz 2001 No S65)  
commenced 5 September 2001 (s 2 (1))

#### **Legislation Amendment Act 2002 A2002-11 pt 2.49**

notified LR 27 May 2002  
s 1, s 2 commenced 27 May 2002 (LA s 75)  
pt 2.49 commenced 28 May 2002 (s 2 (1))

#### **Statute Law Amendment Act 2002 (No 2) A2002-49 pt 3.29**

notified LR 20 December 2002  
s 1, s 2 taken to have commenced 7 October 1994 (LA s 75 (2))  
pt 3.29 commenced 17 January 2003 (s 2 (1))

#### **Criminal Code 2002 A2002-51 pt 1.25**

notified LR 20 December 2002  
s 1, s 2 commenced 20 December 2002 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 1.25 commenced 1 January 2003 (s 2 (1))

## Endnotes

3 Legislation history

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**Statute Law Amendment Act 2003 A2003-41 sch 3 pt 3.20**

notified LR 11 September 2003

s 1, s 2 commenced 11 September 2003 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 3 pt 3.20 commenced 9 October 2003 (s 2 (1))

**Annual Reports Legislation Amendment Act 2004 A2004-9 sch 1 pt 1.35**

notified LR 19 March 2004

s 1, s 2 commenced 19 March 2004 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.35 commenced 13 April 2004 (s 2 and see [Annual Reports \(Government Agencies\) Act 2004 A2004-8](#), s 2 and [CN2004-5](#))

**Criminal Code (Theft, Fraud, Bribery and Related Offences) Amendment Act 2004 A2004-15 sch 2 pt 2.94**

notified LR 26 March 2004

s 1, s 2 commenced 26 March 2004 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 2 pt 2.94 commenced 9 April 2004 (s 2 (1))

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2004 A2004-42 sch 3 pt 3.19**

notified LR 11 August 2004

s 1, s 2 commenced 11 August 2004 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 3 pt 3.19 commenced 25 August 2004 (s 2 (1))

**Heritage Act 2004 A2004-57 sch 1 pt 1.11**

notified LR 9 September 2004

s 1, s 2 commenced 9 September 2004 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.11 commenced 9 March 2005 (s 2 and LA s 79)

**Court Procedures (Consequential Amendments) Act 2004 A2004-60 sch 1 pt 1.72**

notified LR 2 September 2004

s 1, s 2 commenced 2 September 2004 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.72 commenced 10 January 2005 (s 2 and see [Court Procedures Act 2004 A2004-59](#), s 2 and [CN2004-29](#))

**Utilities Amendment Act 2004 A2004-63**

notified LR 2 September 2004

s 1, s 2 commenced 2 September 2004 (LA s 75 (1))

remainder commenced 3 September 2004 (s 2)

**Utilities Amendment Act 2005 A2005-14**

notified LR 24 March 2005  
s 1, s 2 commenced 24 March 2005 (LA s 75 (1))  
remainder commenced 24 September 2005 (s 2 and LA s 79)

**Utilities (Shortage of Essential Services) Amendment Act 2005 A2005-31**

notified LR 29 June 2005  
s 1, s 2 commenced 29 June 2005 (LA s 75 (1))  
remainder commenced 30 June 2005 (s 2)

**Tree Protection Act 2005 A2005-51 sch 1 pt 1.5**

notified LR 29 September 2005  
s 1, s 2 commenced 29 September 2005 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.5 commenced 29 March 2006 (s 2 and LA s 79)

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2005 (No 2) A2005-62 sch 3 pt 3.20**

notified LR 21 December 2005  
s 1, s 2 commenced 21 December 2005 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.20 commenced 11 January 2006 (s 2 (1))

**Utilities (Energy Industry Levy) Amendment Act 2007 A2007-13**

notified LR 13 June 2007  
s 1, s 2 commenced 13 June 2007 (LA s 75 (1))  
remainder commenced 9 July 2007 (s 2 and [CN2007-7](#))

**Water Resources Act 2007 A2007-19 s 211**

notified LR 20 June 2007  
s 1, s 2 commenced 20 June 2007 (LA s 75 (1))  
s 211 commenced 1 August 2007 (s 2 and [CN2007-8](#))

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2007 A2007-22 sch 1 pt 1.14**

notified LR 5 September 2007  
s 1, s 2 commenced 5 September 2007 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.14 commenced 6 September 2007 (s 2)

## Endnotes

**Planning and Development (Consequential Amendments) Act 2007  
A2007-25 sch 1 pt 1.34**

notified LR 13 September 2007  
s 1, s 2 commenced 13 September 2007 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.34 commenced 31 March 2008 (s 2 and see [Planning and Development Act 2007](#) A2007-24, s 2 and [CN2008-1](#))

**National Gas (ACT) Act 2008 A2008-15 sch 2 pt 2.4**

notified LR 30 June 2008  
s 1, s 2 commenced 30 June 2008 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 2 pt 2.4 commenced 1 July 2008 (s 2 (1) and see [National Gas \(South Australia\) Act 2008](#) (SA), s 7)

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2008  
(No 2) A2008-22 sch 1 pt 1.10**

notified LR 8 July 2008  
s 1, s 2 commenced 8 July 2008 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.10 commenced 29 July 2008 (s 2)

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2008 A2008-28 sch 3 pt 3.58**

notified LR 12 August 2008  
s 1, s 2 commenced 12 August 2008 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.58 commenced 26 August 2008 (s 2)

**ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Legislation Amendment  
Act 2008 (No 2) A2008-37 sch 1 pt 1.103**

notified LR 4 September 2008  
s 1, s 2 commenced 4 September 2008 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.103 commenced 2 February 2009 (s 2 (1) and see [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#) A2008-35, s 2 (1) and [CN2009-2](#))

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2009 A2009-20 sch 3 pt 3.74**

notified LR 1 September 2009  
s 1, s 2 commenced 1 September 2009 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.74 commenced 22 September 2009 (s 2)

**Work Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2009 A2009-28 sch 2 pt 2.12**

notified LR 9 September 2009  
s 1, s 2 commenced 9 September 2009 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 2 pt 2.12 commenced 1 October 2009 (s 2 and see [Work Safety Act 2008](#) A2008-51 s 2 (1) (b) and [CN2009-11](#))

as modified by

**ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Transitional Provisions)  
Regulation 2009 SL2009-2 s 67 (as am by SL2009-51 s 6, s 9,  
A2009-54 amdt 1.3)**

notified LR 29 January 2009

s 1, s 2 commenced 29 January 2009 (LA s 75 (1))

s 67 commenced 2 February 2009 (s 2 and see [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2008](#) A2008-35, s 2 (1) and [CN2009-2](#))

**ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Transitional Provisions)  
Amendment Regulation 2009 (No 1) SL2009-51 s 6, s 9**

notified LR 30 October 2009

s 1, s 2 commenced 30 October 2009 (LA s 75 (1))

s 6, s 9 commenced 31 October 2009 (s 2)

*Note* This regulation only amends the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal \(Transitional Provisions\) Regulation 2009](#) SL2009-2.

as amended by

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2009  
(No 4) A2009-54sch 1 pt 1.2, sch 1 pt 1.6**

notified LR 18 December 2009

s 1, s 2 commenced 18 December 2009 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.2, sch 1 pt 1.6 commenced 22 December 2009 (s 2 (2) (a) and see [Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2009 \(No 3\)](#) A2009-44 s 2 (3))

*Note* This Act also amends the [ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal \(Transitional Provisions\) Regulation 2009](#) SL2009-2.

**Fair Trading (Australian Consumer Law) Amendment Act 2010  
A2010-54 sch 3 pt 3.27**

notified LR 16 December 2010

s 1, s 2 commenced 16 December 2010 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 3 pt 3.27 commenced 1 January 2011 (s 2 (1))

**Administrative (One ACT Public Service Miscellaneous Amendments)  
Act 2011 A2011-22 sch 1 pt 1.163**

notified LR 30 June 2011

s 1, s 2 commenced 30 June 2011 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.163 commenced 1 July 2011 (s 2 (1))

**Work Health and Safety (Consequential Amendments) Act 2011  
A2011-55 sch 1 pt 1.11**

notified LR 14 December 2011  
s 1, s 2 commenced 14 December 2011 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.11 commenced 1 January 2012 (s 2 and see [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) A2011-35, s 2 and [CN2011-12](#))

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2012 A2012-21 sch 3 pt 3.52**

notified LR 22 May 2012  
s 1, s 2 commenced 22 May 2012 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.52 commenced 5 June 2012 (s 2 (1))

**National Energy Retail Law (Consequential Amendments) Act 2012  
A2012-32 pt 14**

notified LR 14 June 2012  
s 1, s 2 commenced 14 June 2012 (LA s 75 (1))  
s 104 commenced 1 July 2014 (s 2 (2))  
s 81, s 105 commenced 1 July 2015 (s 2 (3))  
pt 14 remainder commenced 1 July 2012 (s 2 (1) and see [National Energy Retail Law \(ACT\) Act 2012](#) A2012-31, s 2 (1) and [CN2012-12](#))

**Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment  
Act 2013 (No 2) A2013-40 pt 8**

notified LR 6 November 2013  
s 1, s 2 commenced 6 November 2013 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 8 commenced 27 January 2014 (s 2 and [CN2014-1](#))

**Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment  
Act 2014 A2014-23 pt 7**

notified LR 26 May 2014  
s 1, s 2 commenced 26 May 2014 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 7 commenced 27 May 2014 (s 2)

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2014 (No 2) A2014-44 sch 3 pt 3.12**

notified LR 5 November 2014  
s 1, s 2 commenced 5 November 2014 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.12 commenced 19 November 2014 (s 2)



**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (No 2) A2014-49 sch 1 pt 1.24**

notified LR 10 November 2014

s 1, s 2 commenced 10 November 2014 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.24 commenced 17 November 2014 (s 2)

**Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014 A2014-60 sch 2 pt 2.4**

notified LR 8 December 2014

s 1, s 2 commenced 8 December 2014 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 2 pt 2.4 commenced 1 March 2015 (s 2 and [CN2015-1](#))

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2015 A2015-11 sch 1 pt 1.9**

notified LR 20 May 2015

s 1, s 2 commenced 20 May 2015 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.9 commenced 21 May 2015 (s 2 (1))

**Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2015 A2015-12 pt 8**

notified LR 20 May 2015

s 1, s 2 commenced 20 May 2015 (LA s 75 (1))

pt 8 commenced 21 May 2015 (s 2)

**Planning and Development (University of Canberra and Other Leases) Legislation Amendment Act 2015 A2015-19 pt 22**

notified LR 11 June 2015

s 1, s 2 commenced 11 June 2015 (LA s 75 (1))

pt 22 commenced 1 July 2015 (s 2 and [CN2015-9](#))

**Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2015 A2015-33 sch 1 pt 1.68**

notified LR 30 September 2015

s 1, s 2 commenced 30 September 2015 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.68 commenced 14 October 2015 (s 2)

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2015 (No 2) A2015-50 sch 3 pt 3.34**

notified LR 25 November 2015

s 1, s 2 commenced 25 November 2015 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 3 pt 3.34 commenced 9 December 2015 (s 2)

## Endnotes

3 Legislation history

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**Planning, Building and Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2016 (No 2) A2016-24 pt 11**

notified LR 11 May 2016  
s 1, s 2 commenced 11 May 2016 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 11 commenced 12 May 2016 (s 2 (1))

**Freedom of Information Act 2016 A2016-55 sch 4 pt 4.28 (as am by A2017-14 s 19)**

notified LR 26 August 2016  
s 1, s 2 commenced 26 August 2016 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 4 pt 4.28 commenced 1 January 2018 (s 2 as am by [A2017-14 s 19](#))

**Commercial Arbitration Act 2017 A2017-7 sch 1 pt 1.8**

notified LR 4 April 2017  
s 1A, s 1B commenced 4 April 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.8 commenced 1 July 2017 (s 1B and [CN2017-1](#))

**Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2017 (No 2) A2017-14 s 19**

notified LR 17 May 2017  
s 1, s 2 commenced 17 May 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
s 19 commenced 24 May 2017 (s 2 (1))

*Note* This Act only amends the Freedom of Information Act 2016 [A2016-55](#).

**Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2017 A2017-17 pt 10**

notified LR 14 June 2017  
s 1, s 2 commenced 14 June 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 10 commenced 1 July 2017 (s 2 (1))

**Utilities (Streetlight Network) Legislation Amendment Act 2017 A2017-19 pt 4**

notified LR 15 June 2017  
s 1, s 2 commenced 15 June 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 4 commenced 16 June 2017 (s 2)

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2017 (No 2) A2017-28 sch 3 pt 3.16**

notified LR 27 September 2017  
s 1, s 2 commenced 27 September 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.16 commenced 11 October 2017 (s 2)

**Utilities Legislation Amendment Act 2017 A2017-33 pt 2**

notified LR 7 November 2017  
s 1, s 2 commenced 7 November 2017 (LA s 75 (1))  
s 4 commenced 8 November 2017 (s 2 (1))  
pt 2 remainder commenced 1 December 2017 (s 2 (2))

**Courts and Other Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2018 A2018-9 pt 18**

notified LR 29 March 2018  
s 1, s 2 commenced 29 March 2018 (LA s 75 (1))  
pt 18 commenced 26 April 2018 (s 2)

**Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2018 A2018-33 sch 1 pt 1.37**

notified LR 25 September 2018  
s 1, s 2 commenced 25 September 2018 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.37 commenced 23 October 2018 (s 2 (4))

**Utilities Amendment Act 2021 A2021-9**

notified LR 19 May 2021  
s 1, s 2 commenced 19 May 2021 (LA s 75 (1))  
remainder commenced 20 May 2021 (s 2)

**Statute Law Amendment Act 2021 A2021-12 sch 3 pt 3.60**

notified LR 9 June 2021  
s 1, s 2 commenced 9 June 2021 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 3 pt 3.60 commenced 23 June 2021 (s 2 (1))

**Water Resources Amendment Act 2023 A2023-26 sch 1 pt 1.2**

notified LR 7 July 2023  
s 1, s 2 commenced 7 July 2023 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.2 commenced 8 July 2023 (s 2)

**Planning (Consequential Amendments) Act 2023 A2023-36 sch 1 pt 1.67**

notified LR 29 September 2023  
s 1, s 2 commenced 29 September 2023 (LA s 75 (1))  
sch 1 pt 1.67 commenced 27 November 2023 (s 2 (1) and see [Planning Act 2023 A2023-18](#), s 2 (2) and [CN2023-10](#))

## Endnotes

3 Legislation history

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**Urban Forest (Consequential Amendments) Act 2023 A2023-52 sch 1 pt 1.12**

notified LR 11 December 2023

s 1, s 2 commenced 11 December 2023 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 pt 1.12 commenced 1 January 2024 (s 2 and see [Urban Forest Act 2023 A2023-14](#), s 2)

**Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission Amendment Act 2024 A2024-25 sch 1**

notified LR 19 June 2024

s 1, s 2 commenced 19 June 2024 (LA s 75 (1))

sch 1 commenced 19 December 2024 (s 2)

**COAG Legislation Amendment Act 2025 A2025-1 pt 5**

notified LR 20 February 2025

s 1, s 2 commenced 20 February 2025 (LA s 75 (1))

pt 5 commenced 27 February 2025 (s 2)

## 4 Amendment history

### Commencement

s 2 om R2 LA

### ICRC's objects

s 3 am [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.511; [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454; [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.7

### Offences against Act—application of Criminal Code etc

s 5A ins [A2007-13](#) s 4  
am [A2012-32](#) s 69; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.65; [A2021-9](#) s 4

### Electricity services

s 6 am [A2012-32](#) s 70; [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.8

### Electricity networks

s 7 hdg am [A2016-24](#) s 56  
s 7 am [A2016-24](#) s 57, s 58; ss renum R51 LA

### Gas—terminology

s 8 sub [A2008-15](#) amdt 2.12

### Gas services

s 9 am [A2012-32](#) s 71

### Gas networks

s 10 sub [A2008-15](#) amdt 2.13

### Exempt classes of utility services

s 15A ins [A2017-33](#) s 4

### Network boundary

s 16 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.9

### Customers

s 17 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.861, amdt 3.862; [A2012-32](#) s 72, s 73

### Declaration of non-franchise customers

s 18 sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4171; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206; [A2012-32](#) s 74

### Ministerial directions

s 19 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4172; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.207

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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#### Other laws not affected

s 20 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4173, amdt 1.4174; [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.383, amdt 3.384; [A2007-19](#) s 211; [A2007-22](#) amdt 1.51; [A2007-25](#) amdt 1.205, amdt 1.206; pars renum R23 LA; [A2008-15](#) amdt 2.14; [A2009-28](#) amdt 2.28, amdt 2.29; pars renum R30 LA; [A2010-54](#) amdt 3.60; [A2011-55](#) amdt 1.25; [A2023-36](#) amdt 1.399

#### Requirement for licence

s 21 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.66; [A2024-25](#) amdt 1.1

#### Exemption

s 22 am [A2001-44](#) amdts 1.4175-1.4177; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206; [A2012-32](#) s 75

#### Licensed utility services

s 23 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.385

#### General conditions

s 25 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.386; [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454; [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.10

#### Special conditions—water supply services

s 27 sub [A2012-32](#) s 76

#### Special conditions—electricity distribution

s 28 hdg sub [A2012-32](#) s 77  
s 28 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.863; [A2005-62](#) amdt 3.176, amdt 3.177; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.201, amdt 3.202; [A2012-32](#) s 78, s 79

#### Special conditions—gas transmission or distribution

s 29 om [A2008-15](#) amdt 2.15

#### Special conditions—gas distribution or supply

s 30 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.387  
om [A2008-15](#) amdt 2.15

#### Special conditions—gas distribution

s 31 am [A2012-32](#) s 80  
om [A2012-32](#) s 81

#### Partnerships and other groups

s 33 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454

#### Applications for certain licence decisions

s 34 sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4178

#### Public consultation

s 36 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.388; [A2015-33](#) amdt 1.235, amdt 1.236; pars renum R49 LA

|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Grant</b>                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 37                                                  | am <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.245, amdt 3.246; <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.512, amdt 1.513; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Variation</b>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 38                                                  | am <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.248; <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.514, amdt 1.515; ss renum R28 LA; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207; <a href="#">A2014-44</a> amdt 3.67; <a href="#">A2014-60</a> amdt 2.11, amdt 2.12; ss renum R45 LA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Exemption from licence condition</b>               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 39                                                  | am <a href="#">A2001-44</a> amdt 1.4179; <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.248; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Transfer</b>                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 40                                                  | am <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.249, amdt 3.250; <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.516, amdt 1.517; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Surrender</b>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 41                                                  | am <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.251; <a href="#">A2003-41</a> amdt 3.389; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Revocation</b>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 42                                                  | am <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.252; <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.518; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207; <a href="#">A2014-44</a> amdt 3.85                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Notification and review of ICRC decisions</b>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| div 3.3A hdg                                          | ins <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.519                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Meaning of <i>reviewable decision</i>—div 3.3A</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 43                                                  | sub <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.519                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Reviewable decision notices</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 43A                                                 | ins <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.519                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Applications for review</b>                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 43B                                                 | ins <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.519                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Liability</b>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 44                                                  | am <a href="#">A2004-63</a> s 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Determination of fee</b>                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| s 45                                                  | am <a href="#">A2002-49</a> amdt 3.253; <a href="#">A2003-41</a> amdt 3.390-3.393; <a href="#">A2004-63</a> s 5, s 6; <a href="#">A2008-15</a> amdt 2.16; <a href="#">A2008-37</a> amdt 1.520; pars renum R28 LA<br>mod <a href="#">SL2009-2</a> mod 5.1 (as ins by <a href="#">SL2009-51</a> s 9)<br>mod lapsed 22 December 2009 ( <a href="#">SL2009-2</a> mod 5.1 om by <a href="#">A2009-54</a> amdt 1.6)<br>am <a href="#">A2009-54</a> amdt 1.41; <a href="#">A2011-22</a> amdt 1.454; <a href="#">A2012-21</a> amdt 3.207; <a href="#">A2014-44</a> amdt 3.85; <a href="#">A2015-12</a> s 47 |

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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#### Review of licence conditions

s 46 am [A2015-33](#) amdt 1.237-1.239

#### Contravention of licence condition

s 47 am [A2024-25](#) amdt 1.2

#### Directions about licence condition

s 48 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

#### Directions about accounts and records

s 49 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.394-3.396; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.68, amdt 3.85

#### Protection of personal information

s 51 sub [A2014-49](#) amdt 1.50  
am [A2015-11](#) amdt 1.31; [A2016-55](#) amdt 4.49, amdt 4.50

#### Public notice of licence decisions

s 52 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4180, amdt 1.4181; [A2002-49](#) amdt 3.254; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.207

#### Public access to licences etc

s 53 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4182; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.69

#### Annual reports—technical and environmental matters

s 54 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454; [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.13; [A2023-26](#) amdt 1.3

#### Energy industry levy

pt 3A hdg ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
note 2 exp 9 July 2008 (s 401 (2))  
note 2 ins [A2012-32](#) s 82

#### Definitions—pt 3A

s 54A ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **administrator** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **base amount** ins [A2017-17](#) s 28  
def **determined** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **energy industry sector** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **energy utility** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **energy utility service** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **fixed net regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
om [A2017-17](#) s 29  
def **levy** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **levy year** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **local regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **national regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **national regulatory obligations** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **net regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
def **year** ins [A2007-13](#) s 5



**Purpose—pt 3A**s 54B ins [A2007-13](#) s 5**Energy industry levy—imposition**s 54C ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2012-32](#) s 83, s 84; [A2017-17](#) ss 30-33**Energy industry sectors etc**s 54D ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2017-17](#) s 34**National regulatory obligations and costs**s 54E ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2017-17](#) ss 35-43; [A2025-1](#) ss 19-21**Local regulatory costs**s 54F ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2017-17](#) s 44, s 45**Annual regulatory costs etc**s 54G ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2017-17](#) s 46**Regulatory cost—determinations**s 54GA ins [A2017-17](#) s 47**Further energy sector determinations**s 54H ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2017-17](#) s 48, s 49**Production of distribution and sales information**s 54I ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2012-32](#) s 85, s 86; [A2017-17](#) ss 50-52**Production of relevant information etc**s 54J ins [A2007-13](#) s 5**Registration of energy utilities**s 54K ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2017-17](#) s 53, s 54**Offence—failure to register**s 54L ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
(3)-(6) exp 9 July 2008 (s 54L (6) (LA s 88 declaration applies))  
am [A2017-17](#) s 55**Returns under Taxation Administration Act**s 54M ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2012-32](#) s 87, s 88; [A2017-17](#) s 56;  
[A2021-12](#) amdt 3.175

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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#### **Levy administrator**

s 54N ins [A2007-13](#) s 5  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.70

#### **Administrator to publish information**

s 54O ins [A2012-32](#) s 89  
exp 1 July 2013 (s 54O (4))  
ins [A2017-17](#) s 57

#### **Industry codes**

pt 4 hdg note ins [A2012-32](#) s 90

#### **Contents**

s 55 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4183; [A2012-32](#) s 91, s 92; pars  
renum R37 LA; [A2014-44](#) amdts 3.71-3.75; [A2021-9](#) s 5

#### **Application**

s 56 am [A2012-32](#) s 93, s 94; ss renum R37 LA

#### **NERL retailers—determination of application of code**

s 56A ins [A2012-32](#) s 95

#### **Draft codes**

s 57 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

#### **Approved codes**

s 58 am [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.203; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85; [A2014-60](#)  
amdt 2.14

#### **Determined codes**

s 59 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.396; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206; [A2014-44](#)  
amdt 3.85; [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.15

#### **Public consultation**

s 60 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454; [A2015-33](#) amdt 1.240

#### **Variation**

s 61 am [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206

#### **Notification and disallowance of codes etc**

s 62 sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4184

#### **Public access**

s 63 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4185

#### **Technical regulation**

pt 5 hdg note ins [A2012-32](#) s 96  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

#### **Technical codes**

div 5.1 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Contents**

s 64 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**NERL retailers and NERL exempt sellers—determination of application of code**

s 64A ins [A2012-32](#) s 97  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Application of industry code provisions**

s 65 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4186  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Enforcement**

div 5.2 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Functions of director-general**

s 66 hdg am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454  
s 66 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Technical inspectors**

s 67 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4187; ss renum R2 LA (see [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4188); [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.397, amdt 3.398; [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Identity cards**

s 68 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Inspectors—functions**

s 69 sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.399  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Directions about technical codes**

s 70 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4189; [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.207  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Contravention of direction**

s 71 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Obtaining information and documents**

s 72 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Contravention of requirement under s 72**

s 73 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

**Miscellaneous**

div 5.3 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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#### **Self-incrimination etc**

s 74 am [A2002-11](#) amdt 2.99; [A2002-51](#) amdt 1.51  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.16

#### **NERL retailers and NERL exempt sellers**

pt 5A hdg ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Preliminary**

div 5A.1 hdg ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Meaning of NERL retailer**

s 75 om [A2002-11](#) amdt 2.100  
ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Meaning of NERL exempt seller**

s 75A ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Application of Act to NERL retailers**

s 75B ins [A2012-32](#) s 98  
am [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.17; pars renum R45 LA

#### **Application of Act to NERL exempt sellers**

s 75C ins [A2012-32](#) s 98  
am [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.18; pars renum R45 LA

#### **Inconsistency between Act and NERL**

s 75D ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **NERL retailer obligations**

div 5A.2 hdg ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Greenpower**

sdiv 5A.2.1 hdg ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Greenpower obligations—general**

s 75E ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Greenpower obligations—information on bills**

s 75F ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Exemption from greenpower obligations**

s 75G ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

#### **Electricity pricing information for small customers**

sdiv 5A.2.1A hdg ins [A2021-9](#) s 6

#### **Obligation to give electricity price information**

s 75GA ins [A2021-9](#) s 6

#### **Determination of representative consumption and reference price**

s 75GB ins [A2021-9](#) s 6

#### **Enforcement**

sdiv 5A.2.2 hdg ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

**Offence—contravention of code, s 75E or s 75GA**

s 75H hdg sub [A2021-9](#) s 7  
 s 75H ins [A2012-32](#) s 98  
 am [A2021-9](#) s 8; [A2024-25](#) amdt 1.3

**Directions about code, s 75E or s 75GA**

s 75I hdg sub [A2021-9](#) s 9  
 s 75I ins [A2012-32](#) s 98  
 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85; [A2021-9](#) s 10, s 11

**Offence—contravention of direction**

s 75J ins [A2012-32](#) s 98

**Offence—contravention of s 75F**

s 75K ins [A2012-32](#) s 98  
 am [A2024-25](#) amdt 1.4

**Obstruction**

s 76 om [A2004-15](#) amdt 2.202

**Electricity connection service**

s 79 sub [A2012-32](#) s 99

**Electricity supply service**

s 80 om [A2012-32](#) s 100

**Gas connection service**

s 81 om [A2012-32](#) s 100

**Gas supply service**

s 82 om [A2012-32](#) s 100

**Water connection service**

s 83 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.76, amdt 3.77

**Sewerage connection service**

s 85 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.78

**Meaning of utility service—div 6.2**

s 86A ins [A2012-32](#) s 101

**Draft contracts**

s 88 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

**Approval of terms**

s 89 am [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.204; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

**Determination of terms**

s 90 am [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206

**Notification and application of terms etc**

s 91 sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4190

## Endnotes

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**Water supply and sewerage services—owner’s liability for payment**

s 94 am [A2015-19](#) s 145

**Application—div 6.3**

s 94A ins [A2012-32](#) s 102

**Passing on the cost of electricity**

s 98 om [A2012-32](#) s 103

**Passing on the cost of gas**

s 99 om [A2012-32](#) s 103

**Passing on the cost of water**

s 100 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.79; [A2024-25](#) amdt 1.5

**Capital contribution charges—network development**

s 101 am [A2012-32](#) s 104, s 105

**Alternative energy—supply utilities not to discriminate**

s 102 om [A2012-32](#) s 106

**Definitions for pt 7**

s 103 def *network operations* am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.400

**Acquisition of land**

s 104 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.401

**Installation of network facilities**

s 105 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.402, amdt 3.454; [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.23;  
[A2023-52](#) amdt 1.92

**Maintenance of network facilities**

s 106 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.403; [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.24; [A2014-60](#)  
amdt 2.19; [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.93

**Notice to land-holder**

s 109 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.521; [A2014-44](#)  
amdt 3.85

**Notice to owner of structure—network operations**

s 109A ins [A2017-19](#) s 6

**Notice about lopping trees etc on private land—network operations**

s 110 hdg sub [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.94  
s 110 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454; [A2005-14](#) s 4; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85;  
[A2023-52](#) amdt 1.95, amdt 1.96

**Network operations affecting heritage significance**

s 110A ins [A2004-57](#) amdt 1.56

**Notice to other utilities**

s 111 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.404, amdt 3.454; [A2005-14](#) ss 5-7;  
[A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

**Land to be restored**s 113 am [A2005-14](#) s 8**Authorised people**div 7.4 hdg sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.405**Appointment**s 114 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.406, amdt 3.407**Identity cards**s 115 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454**Entry to premises—network operations**s 116 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454**Obstruction**s 118 om [A2004-15](#) amdt 2.202**Order to enforce exercise of functions**s 119 hdg am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.408s 119 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.409-3.411**Clarifying ownership of certain network facilities**s 121 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4191; [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206**Effect of declaration under s 121**s 122 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4192; ss renum R2 LA (see [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4193); [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206**Protection of networks**pt 8 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20**General**div 8.1 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20**Meaning of *interference***s 123 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20**General interference**div 8.2 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20**Interference with networks**s 124 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20**Network protection notices**s 125 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454; [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.25; ss renum R19 LA (see [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.26)  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20**Network protection action affecting heritage significance**s 125A ins [A2004-57](#) amdt 1.57  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

## Endnotes

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#### **Contamination of water or sewerage networks**

div 8.3 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Contamination of water**

s 126 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Prohibited substances—water or sewerage network**

s 127 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Exempt water treatments**

s 128 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Miscellaneous**

div 8.4 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Unauthorised network connections**

s 129 am [A2012-32](#) s 107  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Unauthorised abstraction etc of electricity**

s 130 am [A2012-32](#) s 108  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Unauthorised abstraction etc of gas**

s 131 am [A2012-32](#) s 109  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Unauthorised abstraction etc of water**

s 132 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Extended meaning of *network***

s 133 sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.412  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.20

#### **Meaning of *utility*—pt 9**

s 134 sub [A2012-32](#) s 110

#### **Appointment of controller**

s 135 am [A2003-41](#) amdts 3.413-3.415; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.80

#### **Controller's functions**

s 136 hdg sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.416  
s 136 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.417, amdt 3.418; [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.81

#### **Ministerial directions**

s 139 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.419

#### **Obstructing controller**

s 141 om [A2004-15](#) amdt 2.202

#### **Immunity from personal liability**

s 142 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.419



**Claims**s 144 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454**Acceptance or rejection of compensation offer**s 146 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454**Recovery of compensation**s 149 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.419**Shortage of essential services**pt 9A hdg ins [A2005-31](#) s 4**Definitions for pt 9A**

s 149A ins [A2005-31](#) s 4  
 sub [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.82  
 def **essential service** ins [A2005-31](#) s 4  
 sub [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.82  
 def **essential service restriction** ins [A2005-31](#) s 4  
 sub [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.82

**Restriction of utility service**s 149B ins [A2005-31](#) s 4**Powers in relation to premises**s 149C ins [A2005-31](#) s 4**Production of identity card**s 149D ins [A2005-31](#) s 4**Enforcement**pt 10 hdg note ins [A2012-32](#) s 111**Definitions for pt 10**

s 150 hdg sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.864  
 s 150 def **connected** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.865  
 def **offence** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.865

**Things connected with offences**s 151 om [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.866**Appointment**s 152 am [A2003-41](#) amdts 3.420-3.422; [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454**Warrants—application made other than in person**s 158 am [A2018-33](#) amdt 1.71, amdt 1.72**Powers on entry to premises**s 159 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454**Technical inspectors**div 10.3 hdg om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.21

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### **Powers to enter and inspect premises**

s 164 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.22

### **Authorised people for utility**

div 10.4 hdg sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.423  
om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.23

### **Powers to enter and inspect premises**

s 165 om [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.23

### **Self-incrimination etc**

s 166 am [A2002-11](#) amdt 2.101; [A2002-51](#) amdt 1.52

### **Certain causes of action against customer**

pt 11 hdg sub [A2008-22](#) amdt 1.58; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
note ins [A2012-32](#) s 112

### **Establishment and functions**

div 11.1 hdg om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Constitution**

div 11.2 hdg om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Organisation of council**

div 11.3 hdg om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Proceedings in Magistrates Court—amounts over \$10 000**

s 167 om [A2001-11](#) amdt 2.102  
ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Civil dispute applications to ACAT**

s 168 om [A2004-15](#) amdt 2.202  
ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Complaints to ACAT about utilities**

pt 12 hdg sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Preliminary**

div 12.1 hdg sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

### **Definitions—pt 12**

s 169 am [A2008-22](#) amdt 1.59  
sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **complainant** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **complaint** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **customer debt** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **registrar** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **respondent** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **utility** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
def **withdrawal** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Application—pt 12**

s 170 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.867-3.869; [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.424, amdt 3.454  
 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
 am [A2012-32](#) s 113

**Principles—pt 12**

s 171 am [A2007-22](#) amdt 1.52  
 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Applications to ACAT**

div 12.2 hdg sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**ACAT applications**

s 172 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.425  
 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
 table 172 am [A2012-32](#) ss 114-116; items renum R37 LA;  
[A2014-60](#) amdt 2.25

**Help with applications about failure to provide, or withdrawal of, utility services**

s 173 sub [A2004-9](#) amdt 1.48; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522; [A2017-28](#) amdt 3.53

**Advising Minister etc about systemic problems**

s 174 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.870, amdt 3.871; [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.426-3.428  
 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
 am [A2017-28](#) amdt 3.54

**Preliminary inquiries**

div 12.3 hdg sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Preliminary inquiries—registrar**

s 175 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.872, amdt 3.873; [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.429, amdt 3.430  
 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Dismissal of complaints**

div 12.4 hdg sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Dismissal of complaints about utilities**

s 176 om [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.874  
 ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
 am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85; [A2015-50](#) amdt 3.161

**Powers and decisions of ACAT**

div 12.5 hdg ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Complainant's records**

s 177 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.875  
 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

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#### **ACAT decisions**

s 178 sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.431; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Continuity of utility services—nonpayment of customer debt**

s 179 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.432  
sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
am [A2012-32](#) s 117

#### **Discharge of customer debt**

s 180 sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.433; [A2008-28](#) amdt 3.170; [A2008-37](#)  
amdt 1.522

#### **Payment for loss or damages**

s 181 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.434  
sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85; [A2018-9](#) s 117

#### **Reviewable capital contribution charges**

s 182 hdg am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.435  
s 182 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.436  
sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Reimbursement of utilities for customer debts discharged**

s 183 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Confidential information**

div 12.6 hdg ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Protection of confidential information**

s 184 sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Complaints to which pt 12 applies**

s 185 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Complaints to council**

s 186 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Preliminary inquiries**

s 187 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Withdrawal of complaint**

s 188 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Dismissal of complaint**

s 189 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.437  
om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Notice to utility**

s 190 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Procedure**

s 191 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.438  
om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

**Interim directions**s 192 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Participation by telephone etc**s 193 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Hearings**s 194 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Appearance and representation**s 195 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Taking evidence**s 196 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Refusing to take oath or make affirmation**s 197 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Obtaining information and documents**s 198 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.439om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Contravention of requirement under s 198**s 199 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Witnesses to answer questions etc**s 200 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Selfincrimination etc**s 201 am [A2002-11](#) amdt 2.103; [A2002-51](#) amdt 1.53om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Legal professional privilege**s 202 om [A2002-11](#) amdt 2.104**Restrictions on publication**s 203 am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4194; [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.440om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Contravention of direction about publication**s 204 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Reference of question of law to Supreme Court**s 205 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.441om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Decisions of council**s 206 am [A2007-22](#) amdt 1.53, amdt 1.54om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522**Continuity of utility services—nonpayment of customer debt**s 207 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.442om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

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#### **Discharge of customer debt**

s 208 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Payment for loss or damage**

s 209 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.443

om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Reviewable capital contribution charges**

s 209A ins [A2007-22](#) amdt 1.55

om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Notice of decision**

s 210 am [A2004-60](#) amdt 1.686

om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Decisions by agreement**

s 211 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Records**

s 212 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Correction of errors**

s 213 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Protection of lawyers and witnesses**

s 214 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Obstructing council etc**

s 215 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Providing false information**

s 216 om [A2004-15](#) amdt 2.202

#### **Providing false or misleading documents**

s 217 om [A2004-15](#) amdt 2.202

#### **Reimbursement of utilities for customer debts discharged**

s 218 om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.522

#### **Purposes of pt 13**

s 219 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.444; [A2012-32](#) s 118

#### **Direction by Minister**

s 221 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.445, amdt 3.454

#### **Arbitration of dispute about cost**

s 225 am [A2017-7](#) amdt 1.14

#### **Streetlighting and stormwater**

pt 14 hdg orig pt 14 hdg renum as pt 15 hdg

ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

#### **General**

div 14.1 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

**Definitions for pt 14**

s 225A renum as s 226

**Stormwater network**

s 225B renum as s 227

**Stormwater network code and boundary**

s 225C renum as s 228

**Streetlight network**

s 225D renum as s 229

**Streetlight network code**

s 225E renum as s 230

**Installation of territory network facilities**

s 225F renum as s 231

**Maintenance of territory network facilities**

s 225G renum as s 232

**National land**

s 225H renum as s 233

**Damage etc to be minimised**

s 225I renum as s 234

**Notice to land-holder**

s 225J renum as s 235

**Notice about lopping trees etc on private land**

s 225K renum as s 236

**Territory network operations affecting heritage significance**

s 225L renum as s 237

**Notice to utilities**

s 225M renum as s 238

**Removal of Territory's property and waste**

s 225N renum as s 239

**Land to be restored**

s 225O renum as s 240

**Compensation**

s 225P renum as s 241

**Territory service authorised people**

s 225Q renum as s 242

**Identity cards**

s 225R renum as s 243

## Endnotes

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#### **Entry to premises—territory network operations**

s 225S renum as s 244

#### **Entry to premises—inspection of connections etc**

s 225T renum as s 245

#### **Order to enforce exercise of functions**

s 225U renum as s 246

#### **Ownership of territory network facilities**

s 225V renum as s 247

#### **Interference with territory networks**

s 225W renum as s 248

#### **Territory network protection notices**

s 225X renum as s 249

#### **Territory network protection action affecting heritage significance**

s 225Y renum as s 250

#### **Definitions for pt 14**

s 226 orig s 226 renum as s 251  
(prev s 225A) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
def **installation** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **interference** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **stormwater drainage** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **stormwater network** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **stormwater network boundary** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **stormwater network code** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **streetlighting** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **streetlight network** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **streetlight network code** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
sub [A2017-19](#) s 7  
def **streetlight network framework** ins [A2017-19](#) s 8  
def **territory network** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **territory network facility** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **territory network operations** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **territory network protection notice** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **territory service** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
def **territory service authorised person** ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

#### **Stormwater network**

s 227 orig s 227 renum as s 252  
(prev s 225B) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)



**Stormwater network code and boundary**

s 228 orig s 228 renum as s 253  
 (prev s 225C) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206

**Streetlight network**

s 229 orig s 229 renum as s 254  
 (prev s 225D) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2017-19](#) s 9, s 10

**Streetlight network framework**

s 229A **orig s 229A**  
 renum as s 255  
**pres 229A**  
 ins [A2017-19](#) s 11

**Draft streetlight network code**

s 229B **orig s 229B**  
 renum as s 256  
**pres 229B**  
 ins [A2017-19](#) s 11

**Streetlight network code approval**

s 230 orig s 230 renum as s 257  
 (prev s 225E) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2012-21](#) amdt 3.206  
 sub [A2017-19](#) s 11

**Territory network operations**

div 14.2 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

**General powers**

sdiv 14.2.1 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

**Installation of territory network facilities**

s 231 orig s 231 renum as s 258  
 (prev s 225F) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.27; [A2017-19](#) s 12; pars renum R53 LA;  
[A2023-52](#) amdt 1.97

**Maintenance of territory network facilities**

s 232 orig s 232 renum as s 259  
 (prev s 225G) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.28; [A2017-19](#) s 13, s 14; pars renum  
 R53 LA; [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.98

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#### **National land**

s 233 orig s 233 renum as s 260  
(prev s 225H) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

#### **Performance of territory network operations**

sdiv 14.2.2 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

#### **Damage etc to be minimised**

s 234 orig s 234 renum as s 261  
(prev s 225I) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

#### **Notice to land-holder**

s 235 orig s 235 om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4201  
ins [A2004-63](#) s 7  
exp 1 July 2005 (s 235 (2))  
(prev s 225J) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

#### **Notice to owner of structure—territory network operations**

s 235A ins [A2017-19](#) s 15

#### **Notice about lopping trees etc on private land—territory network operations**

s 236 hdg sub [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.99  
s 236 orig s 236 om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4201  
(prev s 225K) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85; [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.100, amdt 1.101

#### **Territory network operations affecting heritage significance**

s 237 orig s 237 exp 1 January 2002 (s 241)  
(prev s 225L) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

#### **Notice to utilities**

s 238 orig s 238 om R1 LRA  
(prev s 225M) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85

#### **Removal of Territory's property and waste**

s 239 orig s 239 exp 1 January 2002 (s 241)  
(prev s 225N) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

#### **Land to be restored**

s 240 orig s 240 exp 1 January 2002 (s 241)  
(prev s 225O) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Compensation**

s 241 orig s 241 exp 1 January 2002 (s 241)  
 (prev s 225P) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Authorised people and entry to premises**

sdiv 14.2.3 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

**Territory service authorised people**

s 242 orig s 242 exp 20 June 2002 (s 247)  
 (prev s 225Q) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454  
 sub [A2017-19](#) s 16

**Identity cards**

s 243 orig s 243 exp 21 June 2001 (IA s 43 (3))  
 (prev s 225R) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.454

**Entry to premises—territory network operations**

s 244 orig s 244 exp 20 June 2002 (s 247)  
 (prev s 225S) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Entry to premises—inspection of connections etc**

s 245 orig s 245 exp 20 June 2002 (s 247)  
 (prev s 225T) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Miscellaneous**

sdiv 14.2.4 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

**Order to enforce exercise of functions**

s 246 orig s 246 exp 20 June 2002 (s 247)  
 (prev s 225U) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Ownership of territory network facilities**

s 247 orig s 247 exp 20 June 2002 (s 247)  
 (prev s 225V) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Protection of territory networks**

div 14.3 hdg ins [A2005-14](#) s 9

**Interference with territory networks**

s 248 orig s 248 om [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.877  
 (prev s 225W) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2017-19](#) s 17

## Endnotes

4 Amendment history

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### **Territory network protection notices**

s 249 orig s 249 exp 21 June 2001 (IA s 43 (3))  
(prev s 225X) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
am [A2005-51](#) amdt 1.29; ss renum R19 LA (see [A2005-51](#)  
amdt 1.30); [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.85; [A2023-52](#) amdts  
1.102-1.107

### **Territory network protection action affecting heritage significance**

s 250 orig s 250 (1) exp 2 June 2001 (IA s 43 (3))  
(2)–(6) exp 1 July 2001 (s 253)  
(prev s 225Y) ins [A2005-14](#) s 9  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

### **Vicarious liability**

pt 15 hdg orig pt 15 hdg renum as pt 16 hdg  
(prev pt 14 hdg) renum [A2005-14](#) s 10

### **References in pt 15 to *proceeding under this Act***

s 251 hdg (prev s 226 hdg) sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.876; [A2005-14](#) s 11  
s 251 orig s 251 exp 1 July 2001 (s 253)  
(prev s 226) am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4195, amdt 1.4196;  
[A2002-11](#) amdt 2.105; [A2002-51](#) amdt 1.54  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

### **Liability of corporations**

s 252 orig s 252 exp 1 July 2001 (s 253)  
(prev s 227) renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

### **Liability of people other than corporations**

s 253 hdg (prev s 228 hdg) am R8 LA  
s 253 orig s 253 am [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.878  
exp 1 July 2001 (s 253)  
(prev s 228) am [A2002-11](#) amdt 2.106  
renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

### **Miscellaneous**

pt 16 hdg orig pt 16 hdg om R5 LA  
(prev pt 15 hdg) renum [A2005-14](#) s 12

### **First codes**

div 16.1 hdg om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4201

### **Electricity Supply Acts, repeals and savings**

div 16.2 hdg exp 1 January 2002 (s 241)

### **Gas Supply Act, repeals and savings**

div 16.3 hdg exp 20 June 2002 (s 247)

### **Miscellaneous**

div 16.4 hdg exp 1 July 2001 (s 253)

**Determination of fees**

s 254 (prev s 229) sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4197  
 am [A2004-60](#) amdt 1.687  
 sub [A2005-14](#) s 13  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)  
 am [A2008-22](#) amdt 1.60; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.523; [A2012-21](#)  
 amdt 3.206

**Approved forms—ICRC**

s 255 (prev s 229A) ins [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4197  
 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.446  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Approved forms—Minister**

s 256 (prev s 229B) ins [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4197  
 am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.446  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Evidentiary certificate—Government programs**

s 257 (prev s 230) renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Evidence of authorisation by utility**

s 258 (prev s 231) renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Former water and sewerage rates schemes—extended operation**

s 259 (prev s 232) renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Compensation—safety net**

s 260 (prev s 233) am [A2005-14](#) s 14  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Reminder notices and disconnection warning notices—ACAT direction**

s 260A ins [A2012-32](#) s 119

**Regulation-making power**

s 261 hdg (prev s 234 hdg) sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4198  
 s 261 (prev s 234) am [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4199, amdt 1.4200;  
[A2005-14](#) s 15  
 renum R17 LA (see [A2005-14](#) s 16)

**Utilities (General) Regulation 2017—sch 2**

s 262 ins [A2017-33](#) s 5  
 exp 1 December 2017 (s 262 (5))

**Transitional**

pt 17 hdg ins [A2007-13](#) s 6  
 exp 9 July 2008 (s 401 (1))

**Application of pt 3A (Energy industry levy)**

s 400 ins [A2007-13](#) s 6  
 exp 9 July 2008 (s 401 (1))

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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#### **Expiry—pt 17**

s 401 ins [A2007-13](#) s 6  
exp 9 July 2008 (s 401 (1))

#### **Transitional—National Energy Retail Law**

pt 18 hdg ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
exp 1 July 2017 (s 407 (1))

#### **Meaning of *commencement day*—pt 18**

s 402 ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
exp 1 July 2017 (s 407 (1))

#### **Licences**

s 403 ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
exp 1 July 2017 (s 407 (1))

#### **Existing retailer of last resort**

s 404 ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
exp 1 July 2017 (s 407 (1))

#### **Certain electricity services and gas services**

s 405 ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
exp 31 December 2013 (s 407 (2))

#### **Transitional regulations**

s 406 ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
exp 1 July 2017 (s 407 (1))

#### **Certain electricity services and gas services**

s 406A ins [A2014-23](#) s 28  
exp 31 March 2015 (s 407 (2))

#### **Expiry—pt 18**

s 407 ins [A2012-32](#) s 120  
am [A2014-23](#) s 29, s 30  
exp 1 July 2017 (s 407 (1))

#### **Transitional—Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act 2014**

pt 19 hdg ins [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.26  
exp 1 March 2017 (s 410)

#### **Meaning of *commencement day*—pt 19**

s 408 ins [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.26  
exp 1 March 2017 (s 410)

#### **Person currently providing electricity generation or transmission services**

s 409 ins [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.26  
exp 1 March 2017 (s 410)

#### **Expiry—pt 19**

s 410 ins [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.26  
exp 1 March 2017 (s 410)

**Transitional—Red Tape Reduction Legislation Amendment Act 2017**

pt 20 hdg ins [A2017-17](#) s 58  
exp 1 July 2018 (s 412)

**Calculation of energy industry levy in transitional year**

s 411 ins [A2017-17](#) s 58  
exp 1 July 2018 (s 412)

**Expiry—pt 20**

s 412 ins [A2017-17](#) s 58  
exp 1 July 2018 (s 412)

**Transitional—COAG Legislation Amendment Act 2025**

pt 21 hdg ins [A2025-1](#) s 22  
exp 27 February 2027 (s 415)

**References to COAG EC**

s 413 ins [A2025-1](#) s 22  
exp 27 February 2027 (s 415)

**Transitional regulations**

s 414 ins [A2025-1](#) s 22  
exp 27 February 2027 (s 415)

**Expiry—pt 21**

s 415 ins [A2025-1](#) s 22  
exp 27 February 2027 (s 415)

**Reviewable decisions**

sch 1 ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.524

**Utilities (General) Regulation 2017**

sch 2 ins [A2017-33](#) s 6  
exp 1 December 2017 (s 262 (5))

**Dictionary**

dict am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.447; [A2007-13](#) s 7; [A2008-15](#) amdt 2.17;  
[A2008-37](#) amdt 1.525-1.527; [A2009-20](#) amdt 3.214;  
[A2010-54](#) amdt 3.61; [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.455; [A2012-21](#)  
amdt 3.205; [A2012-32](#) s 121; [A2015-33](#) amdt 1.241;  
[A2017-19](#) s 18; [A2021-9](#) s 12  
def **administrator** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **annual licence fee** am [A2004-63](#) s 8  
def **approved meter** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.879  
def **authorised person** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.880  
def **base amount** ins [A2017-17](#) s 59  
def **complainant** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.528  
def **complaint** sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.528  
def **connected** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.881  
def **council** sub [A2008-22](#) amdt 1.61  
om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.529

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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def **customer contract** am [A2013-40](#) s 19  
def **customer debt** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.881  
sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.530  
def **daily newspaper** om [A2009-20](#) amdt 3.215  
def **data storage device** am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.448  
def **determined** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **determined fee** om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4202  
def **electricity connection service** sub [A2012-32](#) s 122  
def **electricity distribution network** ins [A2016-24](#) s 59  
def **electricity network** sub [A2016-24](#) s 60  
def **electricity supplier** om [A2012-32](#) s 123  
def **electricity transmission network** ins [A2016-24](#) s 61  
def **energy industry sector** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **energy utility** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **energy utility service** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **essential service** ins [A2005-31](#) s 5  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.83  
def **essential service restriction** ins [A2005-31](#) s 5  
am [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.83  
def **fixed net regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
om [A2017-17](#) s 60  
def **function** om [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.882  
def **gas connection service** sub [A2012-32](#) s 124  
def **gas distribution network** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.883  
def **gas supplier** om [A2012-32](#) s 125  
def **gas transmission network** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.883  
def **ICRC inspector** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.884  
def **industry code** sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4203  
def **installation** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.885  
sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.449; [A2005-14](#) s 17  
def **interference** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.885  
sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.449; [A2005-14](#) s 17  
am [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.27; pars renum R45 LA  
def **land sublease** ins [A2015-19](#) s 146  
sub [A2023-36](#) amdt 1.400  
def **levy** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **levy year** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **local regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **National Electricity (ACT) Law** ins [A2021-9](#) s 13  
def **national electricity rules** ins [A2012-32](#) s 126  
def **National Energy Retail Law (ACT)** ins [A2021-9](#) s 13  
def **national energy retail rules** ins [A2012-32](#) s 126  
def **National Gas (ACT) Law** ins [A2021-9](#) s 13  
def **National Gas (ACT) Regulation** ins [A2021-9](#) s 13  
def **national gas rules** ins [A2012-32](#) s 126  
def **national regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
def **national regulatory obligations** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8



def **NERL exempt seller** ins [A2012-32](#) s 126  
 def **NERL retailer** ins [A2012-32](#) s 126  
 def **net regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
 def **network** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.886  
     am [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.29; pars renum R45 LA  
 def **network boundary** sub [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.28  
 def **network operations** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.886  
 def **network protection notice** sub [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.30  
 def **occupier** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.886  
 def **offence** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.887  
 def **owner** am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.454; [A2004-42](#) amdt 3.87  
     sub [A2015-19](#) s 147  
 def **party** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.887  
     sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.450  
     om [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.531  
 def **personal information** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.888  
 def **proceeding under this Act** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.889  
     sub [A2005-14](#) s 18  
 def **protected tree** ins [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.108  
 def **registrar** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.889  
     sub [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.532  
 def **regulated utility** ins [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.31  
 def **regulatory cost** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8  
 def **related law** sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4204  
 def **respondent** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.889  
     sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.451; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.533  
 def **reviewable decision** ins [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.534  
 def **stormwater drainage** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **stormwater network** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **stormwater network boundary** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **stormwater network code** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **streetlighting** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **streetlight network** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **streetlight network code** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
     am [A2017-19](#) s 19  
 def **streetlight network framework** ins [A2017-19](#) s 20  
 def **technical code** sub [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4205; [A2014-60](#)  
     amdt 2.32  
 def **technical inspector** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.890; [A2014-60](#)  
     amdt 2.33  
 def **technical regulator** ins [A2014-60](#) amdt 2.34  
 def **territory network** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **territory network facility** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **territory network operations** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **territory network protection notice** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **territory service** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19  
 def **territory service authorised person** ins [A2005-14](#) s 19

## Endnotes

### 4 Amendment history

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def **utility** sub [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.890; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.535  
def **utility service** am [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.452  
sub [A2012-32](#) s 127  
def **water distributor** om [A2014-44](#) amdt 3.84  
def **withdrawal** ins [A2001-56](#) amdt 3.891  
sub [A2003-41](#) amdt 3.453; [A2008-37](#) amdt 1.536  
def **year** ins [A2007-13](#) s 8

## 5 Earlier republications

Some earlier republications were not numbered. The number in column 1 refers to the publication order.

Since 12 September 2001 every authorised republication has been published in electronic pdf format on the ACT legislation register. A selection of authorised republications have also been published in printed format. These republications are marked with an asterisk (\*) in column 1. Electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical.

| Republication No | Amendments to            | Republication date |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1                | not amended              | 24 May 2001        |
| 2                | <a href="#">A2001-56</a> | 5 September 2001   |
| 3                | <a href="#">A2001-56</a> | 10 January 2002    |
| 4                | <a href="#">A2002-11</a> | 29 May 2002        |
| 5                | <a href="#">A2002-11</a> | 21 June 2002       |
| 6                | <a href="#">A2002-51</a> | 1 January 2003     |
| 7                | <a href="#">A2002-51</a> | 17 January 2003    |
| 8                | <a href="#">A2003-41</a> | 9 October 2003     |
| 9                | <a href="#">A2004-15</a> | 9 April 2004       |
| 10               | <a href="#">A2004-15</a> | 13 April 2004      |
| 11               | <a href="#">A2004-42</a> | 25 August 2004     |
| 12               | <a href="#">A2004-63</a> | 3 September 2004   |
| 13               | <a href="#">A2004-63</a> | 10 January 2005    |
| 14               | <a href="#">A2004-63</a> | 9 March 2004       |
| 15               | <a href="#">A2005-31</a> | 30 June 2005       |
| 16               | <a href="#">A2005-31</a> | 2 July 2005        |
| 17*              | <a href="#">A2005-31</a> | 24 September 2005  |
| 18               | <a href="#">A2005-62</a> | 11 January 2006    |
| 19               | <a href="#">A2005-62</a> | 29 March 2006      |
| 20               | <a href="#">A2007-19</a> | 9 July 2007        |
| 21               | <a href="#">A2007-19</a> | 1 August 2007      |
| 22               | <a href="#">A2007-22</a> | 6 September 2007   |

## Endnotes

5 Earlier republishings

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| Republication No | Amendments to             | Republication date |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 23               | <a href="#">A2007-25</a>  | 31 March 2008      |
| 24               | <a href="#">A2008-15</a>  | 1 July 2008        |
| 25               | <a href="#">A2008-22</a>  | 10 July 2008       |
| 26               | <a href="#">A2008-22</a>  | 29 July 2008       |
| 27               | <a href="#">A2008-28</a>  | 26 August 2008     |
| 28               | <a href="#">A2008-37</a>  | 2 February 2009    |
| 29               | <a href="#">A2009-28</a>  | 22 September 2009  |
| 30               | <a href="#">A2009-28</a>  | 1 October 2009     |
| 31               | <a href="#">SL2009-51</a> | 31 October 2009    |
| 32               | <a href="#">A2009-54</a>  | 22 December 2009   |
| 33               | <a href="#">A2010-54</a>  | 1 January 2011     |
| 34               | <a href="#">A2011-22</a>  | 1 July 2011        |
| 35               | <a href="#">A2011-55</a>  | 1 January 2012     |
| 36               | <a href="#">A2012-21</a>  | 5 June 2012        |
| 37               | <a href="#">A2012-32</a>  | 1 July 2012        |
| 38               | <a href="#">A2012-32</a>  | 2 July 2013        |
| 39               | <a href="#">A2012-32</a>  | 1 January 2014     |
| 40               | <a href="#">A2013-40</a>  | 27 January 2014    |
| 41               | <a href="#">A2014-23</a>  | 27 May 2014        |
| 42               | <a href="#">A2014-23</a>  | 1 July 2014        |
| 43               | <a href="#">A2014-49</a>  | 17 November 2014   |
| 44               | <a href="#">A2014-49</a>  | 19 November 2014   |
| 45               | <a href="#">A2014-60</a>  | 1 March 2015       |
| 46               | <a href="#">A2014-60</a>  | 1 April 2015       |
| 47               | <a href="#">A2015-12</a>  | 21 May 2015        |
| 48               | <a href="#">A2015-19</a>  | 1 July 2015        |
| 49               | <a href="#">A2015-33</a>  | 14 October 2015    |

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| Republication No | Amendments to            | Republication date |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 50               | <a href="#">A2015-50</a> | 9 December 2015    |
| 51               | <a href="#">A2016-24</a> | 12 May 2016        |
| 52               | <a href="#">A2016-24</a> | 2 March 2017       |
| 53               | <a href="#">A2017-19</a> | 16 June 2017       |
| 54               | <a href="#">A2017-19</a> | 1 July 2017        |
| 55               | <a href="#">A2017-19</a> | 2 July 2017        |
| 56               | <a href="#">A2017-28</a> | 11 October 2017    |
| 57               | <a href="#">A2017-33</a> | 8 November 2017    |
| 58               | <a href="#">A2017-33</a> | 1 December 2017    |
| 59               | <a href="#">A2017-33</a> | 2 December 2017    |
| 60               | <a href="#">A2017-33</a> | 1 January 2018     |
| 61               | <a href="#">A2018-9</a>  | 26 April 2018      |
| 62               | <a href="#">A2018-9</a>  | 2 July 2018        |
| 63               | <a href="#">A2018-33</a> | 23 October 2018    |
| 64               | <a href="#">A2021-9</a>  | 20 May 2021        |
| 65               | <a href="#">A2021-12</a> | 23 June 2021       |
| 66               | <a href="#">A2023-26</a> | 8 July 2023        |
| 67               | <a href="#">A2023-36</a> | 27 November 2023   |
| 68               | <a href="#">A2023-52</a> | 1 January 2024     |
| 69               | <a href="#">A2024-25</a> | 19 December 2024   |

## Endnotes

6 Renumbered provisions

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### 6 Renumbered provisions

This Act was renumbered under the [Legislation Act 2001](#), in R17 (see [Utilities Amendment Act 2005](#) A2005-14 s 16). Details of renumbered provisions are shown in endnote 4 (Amendment history). For a table showing the renumbered provisions, see R17.

### 7 Expired transitional or validating provisions

This Act may be affected by transitional or validating provisions that have expired. The expiry does not affect any continuing operation of the provisions (see [Legislation Act 2001](#), s 88 (1)).

Expired provisions are removed from the republished law when the expiry takes effect and are listed in the amendment history using the abbreviation ‘exp’ followed by the date of the expiry.

To find the expired provisions see the version of this Act before the expiry took effect. The ACT legislation register has point-in-time versions of this Act.

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