

2026

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

(As presented)

(Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water)

Utilities Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

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Utilities Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

A Bill for

An Act to amend legislation about utilities

The Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory enacts as follows:

1 **Part 1 Preliminary**

2 **1 Name of Act**

3 This Act is the *Utilities Legislation Amendment Act 2026*.

4 **2 Commencement**

5 This Act commences on the day after its notification day.

6 *Note* The naming and commencement provisions automatically commence on
7 the notification day (see [Legislation Act](#), s 75 (1)).

8 **3 Legislation amended**

9 This Act amends the *Utilities Act 2000* and the *Utilities (Technical*
10 *Regulation) Act 2014*.

Part 2 Utilities Act 2000

4 ICRC's objects Section 3

omit

5 New sections 5B and 5C

in part 1, insert

5B Objects of Act

The objects of this Act are to—

- (a) encourage the provision of safe, reliable, efficient and high-quality utility services at reasonable prices; and
- (b) minimise the potential for misuse of monopoly power in the provision of utility services; and
- (c) promote competition in the provision of utility services; and
- (d) encourage prudent and efficient long-term investment in utility service industries; and
- (e) encourage sustainable levels of employment in utility service industries; and
- (f) promote ecologically sustainable development in the provision of utility services; and
- (g) protect the interests of consumers; and
- (h) ensure that ending the provision of utility services, and decommissioning of networks, is carried out in a safe, efficient, equitable and transparent way.

1 **5C ICRC's objects**

2 The ICRC's objects under this Act are to—

- 3 (a) ensure that advice given to the ICRC by the ACAT is properly
4 considered; and
- 5 (b) ensure the Government's programs about the provision of utility
6 services are properly addressed; and
- 7 (c) give effect to the objects of this Act.

8 **6 Exempt classes of utility services**
9 **Section 15A (1) (b)**

10 *omit*

11 section 3

12 *substitute*

13 this Act

14 **7 Ministerial directions**
15 **Section 19 (1)**

16 *substitute*

- 17 (1) A direction under this section may be given to the ICRC only to
18 ensure the ICRC's objects under this Act are achieved.

19 **8 Public access to licences etc**
20 **Section 53 (1) (c)**

21 *omit*

22 web site on the Internet

23 *substitute*

24 website

1 **9 Contents**
2 **New section 55 (2) (l) to (o)**

3 *before the note, insert*

- 4 (l) ending the provision of a utility service;
5 (m) the removal of a network facility;
6 (n) the decommissioning of a network;
7 (o) information sharing between utilities about utility services.

8 **10 Approved codes**
9 **New section 58 (2) (b) (ia)**

10 *before section 58 (2) (b) (i), insert*

- 11 (ia) the code is consistent with this Act; and

12 **11 Determined codes**
13 **New section 59 (1) (b) (ia)**

14 *before section 59 (1) (b) (i), insert*

- 15 (ia) the code is consistent with this Act; and

16 **12 Dictionary, new definition of *decommission***

17 *insert*

18 *decommission*, a network, includes remove or disable a network
19 facility.

1	Part 3	Utilities (Technical Regulation)
2		Act 2014
3	13	Objects of Act
4		New section 6 (e)
5		<i>insert</i>
6		(e) ensure that ending the provision of regulated utility services, and
7		decommissioning of regulated utility networks, is carried out in
8		a safe, efficient and transparent way.
9	14	Technical codes—purpose
10		New section 11 (1) (ea) to (ed)
11		<i>insert</i>
12		(ea) ensuring the safe and efficient disconnection of customers’
13		premises from a regulated utility network;
14		(eb) ending the provision of a regulated utility service;
15		(ec) ensuring the safe and efficient removal of a network facility;
16		(ed) ensuring the safe and efficient decommissioning of a regulated
17		utility network;
18	15	New section 11 (1) (h) and (i)
19		<i>insert</i>
20		(h) information sharing between regulated utilities about regulated
21		utility services;
22		(i) information sharing with the community, by regulated utilities,
23		about regulated utility services.

16 Definitions—pt 4
**Section 28, definition of *dangerous incident*,
paragraph (b)**

substitute

- (b) an uncontrolled fire, implosion or explosion, including an electrical explosion or an arc flash explosion; or

17 Operating certificate—application
New section 43 (3) to (5)

insert

- (3) An application must also include—
- (a) if required by the technical regulator—a regulatory plan for the regulated utility service or proposed regulated utility service; and
- (b) any other information the technical regulator reasonably requires to decide the application; and
- (c) any other information prescribed by regulation.
- (4) The technical regulator may determine requirements for a regulatory plan.
- (5) A determination is a notifiable instrument.

18 Operating certificate—further information
Section 44 (1)

omit

including plans detailing the regulated utility service or the proposed regulated utility service

- 1 **19 Dictionary, new definition of *decommission***
- 2 *insert*
- 3 *decommission*, a regulated utility network, includes remove or
- 4 disable a network facility.
-

Endnotes

1 Presentation speech

Presentation speech made in the Legislative Assembly on 22 October 2026.

2 Notification

Notified under the [Legislation Act](#) on 2026.

3 Republications of amended laws

For the latest republication of amended laws, see www.legislation.act.gov.au.
