



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
MOTOR VEHICLES (DIMENSIONS AND MASS) ACT 1990
DETERMINATION OF DIMENSIONS OF VEHICLES
NO. 201 OF 1996
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Determination sets new vehicle dimension limits for the purposes of the *Motor Vehicles (Dimensions and Mass) Act 1990* (the Act). Schedule 1 fixes the dimensions of vehicles other than width and Schedule 2 fixes the width of vehicles. The dimension limits apply also to any equipment or load carried on or attached to a vehicle.

The Determination reflects legislative amendments to the Act which the Assembly passed on 29 February 1996 and which came into force on 12 September 1996. Prior to the commencement of these amendments, dimension limits were fixed in provisions laid down in the Act itself.

Vehicles (or combinations of vehicles) which exceed the dimension limits laid down in this Determination may only operate in the ACT in accordance with the provisions of a permit issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to the particular vehicle (or combination) under section 27 of the Act, or in accordance with the provisions of an exemption notice made by the Minister in relation to the class of vehicles (or combination) under the new section 31A of the Act.

The dimension limits set out in the schedules to the Determination are consistent with new, nationally-uniform limits agreed to by the Ministerial Council for Road Transport in December 1993 and subsequently incorporated in the *Road Transport Reform (Heavy Vehicle Standards) Regulations* and *Road Transport Reform (Mass and Loading) Regulations* made under the *Commonwealth Road Transport Reform (Vehicles and Traffic) Act 1993*. These national regulations are not yet operational (pending finalisation of compliance and enforcement provisions) but the new dimension limits have already been adopted by all other jurisdictions under State and Territory legislation.

Under the Determination vehicles complying with the nationally-agreed dimension limits which exceed the limits formerly set in the Act will no longer require permits to operate in the ACT.

The setting of dimension limits by determination provides the ACT with greater flexibility to adopt any changes to dimension standards which may be agreed nationally at any time in the future without undue delay.