

1996

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

DETERMINATION OF DIRECTIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF A SPORTS
BETTING VENUE

NO. 230 OF 1996

Circulated by the Authority of BILL STEFANIAK MLA

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Outline

The *Bookmakers Act 1985* (the Act) governs the activities of bookmakers in the Australian Capital Territory

Part IIIA of the Act provides for the conduct and control of sports betting. In particular, the legislation empowers the Minister to determine a place to be a sports betting venue

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

This instrument sets the operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venue located at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium.

The instrument sets out the:-

- operating times that licensed sports betting bookmakers may accept face-to-face bets,
- requirements that a licensed sports bookmaker or a licensed agent must be in attendance during the operating hours;
- restrictions on betting; and
- operational aspects including ticketing and reporting arrangements.

In particular, the instrument sets the dates of operation for five of the 1996 home games of the Canberra Cosmos in the 1996-97 Ericsson Cup soccer competition.

The Instrument sets the operating hours from 5 30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. for each game.

This instrument requires that between the approved operating hours, a licensed sports bookmaker or licensed agent, must be in attendance. The instrument restricts the method of betting to face-to-face transactions only.

Furthermore, the instrument details the ticketing requirements, security guarantee and administrative arrangements for the sports betting bookmakers operating at the venue for each home game.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this instrument. This instrument sets the overall operating framework for the sports betting service at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium for the trial of sports betting at Canberra Cosmos home games.

This trial, which has the endorsement of Soccer Australia, will extend over five pre-Christmas 1996 home games of the Canberra Cosmos. The outcomes of the trial will be reviewed early in 1997 to determine its effectiveness

The provision of the sports betting service at the Bruce Stadium will enhance the range of entertainment and services available to patrons at Canberra Cosmos home games.

The provision of a sports betting service by bookmakers at Bruce Stadium, for Canberra Raiders home games, proved to be a successful venture with interest growing with each match. Moderate levels of turnover were achieved however, sports bookmakers were able to offer their services to a wider range of clients and achieve a greater exposure of their products.