

1994

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR  
THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

*ELECTRICITY AND WATER ACT 1988*

**DETERMINATION OF THE BASIC WATER ALLOWANCE**

**DETERMINATION NO. 29 OF 1994**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**Circulated by authority of  
David Lamont MLA  
Minister for Urban Services**

## DETERMINATION OF THE BASIC WATER ALLOWANCE

### AUTHORITY

Subsection 48(1A) of the *Electricity and Water Act 1988* empowers the Minister for Urban Services to determine a quantity of water to be the basic water allowance, by notice in writing published in the *Gazette*.

### BACKGROUND

On 17 September 1991 the Legislative Assembly approved amendments to the *Electricity and Water Act 1988* and to the *Water Rates Act 1959* which permit the Minister for Urban Services to determine the basic water allowance.

On 2 September 1992, the then Minister for Urban Services, Mr Terry Connolly, determined the basic water allowance at 350 kilolitres.

### PURPOSE AND CONSEQUENCES

The result of research on water pricing policies and community consultation on the future water supply strategy for the ACT led to a review of the methods of charging for water. The ACT Electricity and Water Authority has determined water rates based on a supply charge for each property plus an excess water charge for each kilolitre of water used in excess of an anticipated basic water allowance applying to meter reading periods ending in 1994/95 of one kilolitre. The *Water Rates Act 1959* requires a "prescribed quantity of water" (that is, the basic water allowance) as part of the water rates system.

The Minister for Urban Services foreshadows his intention to seek amendment of the *Water Rates Act* during 1994/95 to remove the requirement for a prescribed quantity of water / basic water allowance.

The Ministerial determination now laid before the Assembly determines the basic allowance ("prescribed quantity") at one kilolitre.