

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

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Amendments to be moved on behalf of the Government

**Circulated by authority of
Brendan Smyth MLA
Minister for Urban Services**

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Electricity (Amendment) Bill 1999

Outline

This is an amending Bill. It amends the *Electricity Act 1971*, referred to in the amending Bill as the Principal Act. The Bill was introduced into the Assembly on 22 April 1999 and includes a provision to exempt telecommunication workers from the licensing provisions of the Act. This exemption will ensure continued telecommunication supply and servicing without the imposition of unnecessary electrical licensing conditions.

Under the implementation of the Commonwealth's Competition Policy, statutory immunity for telecommunication workers from the licensing provisions of the Principal Act were removed in July 1997. Each State and Territory electrical regulator agreed to provide exemption from the relevant electrical licensing legislation.

Since the Bill was presented to the Assembly, further consultation with interstate electrical regulators and ACTEW Corporation has identified the need to amend the Bill in relation to the training requirements for telecommunication workers. Section 6 of the Bill states that a person must not carry out telecommunication cabling work unless the person has satisfactorily completed an accredited course. This is now considered too prescriptive because it has been identified that most aspects of telecommunication work such as installing telecommunication cabling between power poles, do not require accredited training qualifications.

All State and Territory electrical regulators have now agreed to remove the need for telecommunication workers to have completed accredited training courses in telecommunication cabling.

Clause notes

The Government amendments replace **Clause 4** of the Bill. It is electrical wiring work that the Principal Act limits to qualified persons. The new Clause 4 changes the definition of "electrical wiring work" so that it excludes telecommunications cabling or equipment that operates at voltages exceeding 32V a.c up to 90V a.c.

The new **Clause 4** alters the definition of "electrical installation" in the Principal Act. The new definition requires an electrical installations above 90V a.c. that forms part of the telecommunication system, to be subject to the requirements of the Act.

Clause 6 of the Bill adds to the Principal Act a requirement for telecommunication workers to have undergone a course of training. The amendments omit **Clause 6**.