

1992

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

ELECTRICITY AND WATER ACT 1988

DETERMINATION OF THE BASIC WATER ALLOWANCE

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**(Circulated by authority of
Terence Connolly MLA
Minister for Urban Services)**

SETTING 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 set the basic water allowance.

In his presentation speech to the Assembly introducing the amendments the Minister said it was intended to phase in the reduction of the basic water allowance from 455 kilolitres of water to 350 kilolitres of water progressively from about mid to late October 1991, until 30 June 1992.

The Minister made Determination No. 87 of 1991 on 30 September 1991. The effect of that determination was to set and phase in the basic water allowance. This was published in Special Gazette No. S110 of 1 October 1991.

Due to a clerical error Determination No. 87 of 1991 was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly and as a result there is currently no basic water allowance.

PURPOSE AND CONSEQUENCES

The Ministerial determination now laid before the Assembly determines the basic water allowance to be 350 kilolitres of water on and from 2 September 1992.

The purpose of the reduction is to encourage water conservation by giving an increased number of water users the incentive to use water carefully. A significant reduction in average per capita water consumption will defer the need to incur the high cost involved in providing an additional water supply dam.