

1993

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

ELECTRICITY AND WATER ACT 1988

ELECTRICITY AND WATER REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by Authority of the Minister for Urban Services

Terry Connolly MLA

ELECTRICITY AND WATER REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Electricity and Water Regulations (the Principal Regulations) are made under section 82 of the *Electricity and Water Act 1988* (the Act).

Section 50 of the Act establishes the liability of persons to pay the Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water Authority for electricity that is supplied by the Authority and also water rates and sewerage rates. Section 50 goes on to specify the manner in which charges for electricity, water and sewerage services may be made. In particular, subsection 50(5) provides that where the liability of a person to pay a charge is not discharged within 28 days after the day on which that charge became due and payable then the person may become liable to pay interest, which accrues at the prescribed rate, on the unpaid charge.

The Principal Regulations specify, for the purposes of subsection 50(5) of the Act, the rate at which interest accrues on unpaid electricity, sewerage and water charges.

In line with recent decreases in general interest rates, the Electricity and Water Regulations (Amendment) amends the Principal Regulations to lower the interest rate on unpaid electricity, sewerage and water charges from 20% per annum to 17% per annum. This amendment will be effective from the date of notification in the Gazette.