

**1991**

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**ELECTRICITY AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL NO. 2 1991**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**Circulated by Authority of**

**Terry Connolly  
Minister for Urban Services**

## **ELECTRICITY AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL (NO. 2) 1991**

### **GENERAL OUTLINE**

- 1 This Bill will amend the Electricity and Water Act 1988 so as to permit the A.C.T. Electricity and Water Authority (ACTEW) to set the quantity of the basic water allowance, by notice published in the Gazette. (The basic water allowance is the quantity of water which may be used on a metered property without the holder of the property lease incurring any charge apart from the basic water rates applicable to the property. If water consumption exceeds the basic water allowance, an "excess water" charge applies to each kilolitre used in excess of the allowance).
- 2 A determination by ACTEW setting electricity, water or sewerage charges, will take effect from a date not earlier than 14 days after the date on which the determination is published in the Gazette (currently 30 days). A determination setting the basic water allowance will take effect not earlier than 14 days after gazettal.
- 3 The Minister will be able to disallow any such determination by ACTEW within 14 days following publication of the determination in the Gazette, rather than 30 days. The purpose of this change is to streamline arrangements for the annual setting of charges for electricity, water and sewerage services.

### **Financial impact**

- 4 The amendment will enable ACTEW to reduce the basic water allowance from the current level of 455 kilolitres per year, to 350 kilolitres to encourage water conservation. Depending on water usage the change may result in additional revenue in the order of \$0.8 million in 1991-92 and \$2.2 million in a full year. There should also be modest financial benefits from reduced delays in levying rates and improved cash flow.

## NOTES ON CLAUSES

### **Clause 1: Short Title**

The legislation may be referred to as the Electricity and Water (Amendment) Act (No. 2) 1991.

### **Clause 2: Principal Act**

The Principal Act referred to is the Electricity and Water Act 1988.

### **Clause 3: Interpretation**

A definition of the "basic water allowance" is added to the Electricity and Water Act 1988.

### **Clause 4: Charges for supply of electricity, water and sewerage services**

- 4(a): Section 48(1A) is added to the principal Act, empowering ACTEW to set the quantity of the basic water allowance.
- 4(b): An amendment of Sub-Section 48(2) of the principal Act provides that a determination by ACTEW on electricity, water or sewerage service charges, or on the quantity of the basic water allowance, takes effect on the date specified in the determination and no earlier than 14 days after gazettal of the determination.

### **Clause 5: Disallowance of determinations**

An amendment to Section 49 of the principal Act reduces the period allowed for Ministerial disallowance, by notice published in the Gazette, of ACTEW determinations on electricity, water or sewerage service charges, from 30 days following gazettal of the ACTEW determination, to 14 days. The amendment allows 14 days from gazettal of an ACTEW determination of the basic water allowance, as the period during which the Minister can disallow the determination by notice published in the Gazette.