

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

***UTILITIES ACT 2000***

**DECLARATION UNDER SUBSECTION 18(1)**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**INSTRUMENT NO. 93 OF 2001**

The *Utilities Act 2000* commenced on 1 January 2001. Section 18(1) of this Act provides for the declaration of non-franchise customers, in relation to the supply of electricity, gas or water to stated premises or the premises of a stated class.

Non-franchise customers are in effect customers who have choice of supplier. Other customers are franchise customers.

Under the Ministerial Declaration, a person who owns or occupies premises at which the consumption of electricity exceeds 100 megawatt hours per annum is declared to be a non-franchise customer. In accordance with section 18(2), the Declaration will allow consumers to elect to become non-franchise customers from 1 July 2001. All customers in this category will automatically be categorised as non-franchise on 1 July 2002.