

2000

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**DETERMINATION OF DIRECTIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF A SPORTS
BETTING VENUE**

INSTRUMENT NO. 340 OF 2000

**Circulated by the Authority of Penny Reader Harris
Acting Chairperson, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission**

Outline

The *Bookmakers Act 1985* (the Act) governs the activities of bookmakers in the Australian Capital Territory.

Part IIIA of the Act provides for the conduct and control of sports betting. In particular, the legislation empowers the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission to determine a place to be a sports betting venue.

Section 39B (2) of the Act provides that the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission may determine directions for the operation of a determined sports betting venue.

This instrument varies the operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venues for ACTTAB Limited (A.C.N. 071 257 504) whilst its ACT sports betting licence remains in force and ACTTAB Limited remains an ACT Territory Owned Corporation.

In particular, the instrument exempts ACTTAB Limited from the requirements under section 2.1 of Determination No. 68 of 1997, notified in Gazette No. S99 of 18 April 1997.

Section 2.1 requires a sports betting licensee that is a company to have in attendance at the sports betting venue when betting transactions are being conducted, a director who holds a bookmakers standing licence or an agent who holds a sports betting agent's licence.

In considering ACTTAB Limited's intention to conduct its sports betting service throughout its extensive retail network, it was identified that the requirements of 2.1 would be impractical.

ACTTAB Limited's agency arrangements are different from that envisaged by the Act. ACTTAB Limited's agents and sub-agents will not have the level of operational control over sports betting activities that other licensees require of their sports betting agents.

ACTTAB Limited has confirmed that it conducts probity and financial checks on all agencies and sub-agencies prior to the approval and commencement of activities in these venues. It is considered that whilst ACTTAB Limited remains

a 100% ACT Territory Owned Corporation it will be exempt from the requirements of Section 2.1.

Financial Implications

ACTTAB Limited intends operating its sports betting services throughout its retail network. Without an exemption from the requirements of Section 2.1 of Determination No.68 of 1997, it would be necessary for ACTTAB Limited to have a sports betting agent in attendance at each ACTTAB agency and sub-agency when betting transactions are being conducted. Such requirements would lead to overly complex agency and sub-agency arrangements.