

**1998**

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

**INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY  
COMMISSION ACT 1997**

**INSTRUMENT NO. 16 OF 1999**

**VARIATION TO SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTION 16  
IN RELATION TO INVESTIGATION**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Circulated by Authority of

**Brendan Michael Smyth  
Minister for Urban Services**

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**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**Outline**

By instrument dated 15 June 1998 the Minister for Urban Services declared the ACT taxi industry to be a regulated industry, being an industry whose infrastructure facilities are wholly or substantially owned, controlled or operated by a single person.

The purpose of that declaration was to refer ACT taxi fares to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Commission for investigation.

By a separate instrument dated 15 June 1998 (copy attached) the Minister for Urban Services referred ACT taxi fares to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Commission (IPARC) for investigation and, pursuant to subsection 16 (1) of the Independent Pricing and regulatory Commission Act 1977, specified various requirements in relation to the investigation. These requirements included a reporting date of 30 March 1999 for IPARC's final report to the Minister.

Maximum taxi fares are currently determined by the Minister under subsection 36 (1) of the *Motor Traffic Act 1936* (the MTA). The Government will be reviewing early next year (under the Competition Principles Agreement) relevant provisions of the MTA. This is expected to be completed in the second half of 1999.

Completion of this will be necessary to assist IPARC's investigation of taxi fares and the fare setting formula to apply in the longer term. It is proposed that the final reporting date for the IPARC investigation will be extended until 30 March 2000.

**Financial considerations**

There are no direct costs associated with this variation.

**Commencement**

The instrument commences upon gazettal.