

1998

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

INSTRUMENT NO 64 OF 1998

Circulated by the Authority of BILL STEFANIAK MLA

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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 Minister to determine a place to be a sports betting venue.

Section 39B (2) of the Act provides that the Minister may determine directions for the operation of a determined sports betting venue.

This instrument sets the operational framework for the conduct of the sports betting service within the sports betting venue located at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium.

The instrument sets out the:-

- operating times that licensed sports betting bookmakers may accept face-to-face bets;
- requirements that a licensed sports bookmaker or a licensed agent must be in attendance during the operating hours;
- the restrictions on betting; and
- operational aspects including ticketing and reporting arrangements.

In particular, the instrument provides for betting at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium for the home games of the Canberra Raiders and the ACT Brumbies for their respective 1998 seasons.

The Instrument sets the times that bookmakers may accept bets as being between two hours prior to the kick-off of the main game to half an hour past the completion of the main game. This provision applies to each game over the respective seasons.

This Instrument requires that between the approved operating hours, a licensed sports bookmaker or licensed agent, must be in attendance. The Instrument restricts the method of betting to face-to-face transactions only.

Furthermore, the instrument details the ticketing requirements, security guarantee and administrative arrangements for the sports betting bookmakers operating at the venue for each home game.

Financial Implications

This Instrument sets the overall operating framework for the sports betting service at the Bruce Outdoor Stadium for the home games of the Canberra Raiders Rugby League team and the ACT Brumbies Rugby Union team for the 1997 season. This follows successful implementation of the sports betting service at Bruce Stadium in 1997.

The provision of the sports betting service at Bruce Outdoor Stadium resulted in moderate turnover levels being achieved. However, feedback from the sports bookmakers indicated that the service was enthusiastically embraced by patrons and it provided an opportunity for the sports bookmakers to offer their services to a wider range of clients.

The provision of the sports betting service at Bruce Stadium enhances the range of entertainment and services available to patrons at the home games of the two football codes.