



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

**Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No.91:  
Signs Policies - Amendments to the Territory Plan Written  
Statement**

Report No.2 of the Standing Committee on Urban Services

June 1998

**On 28 April 1998 the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory resolved to establish a general purpose standing committee, called the Standing Committee on Urban Services, to inquire into and report on:**

planning and lease management, road and transport services, housing and housing assistance, government purchasing and public utilities purchasing, electricity industry and regulation, construction industry policy, parks and forests, private sector employment inspectorate, building services, environment, heritage and municipal services and any other matter under the responsibility of the portfolio minister.

**Also on the same day, the Legislative Assembly resolved:**

If the Assembly is not sitting when the Standing Committee on Urban Services has completed consideration of a report on draft Plan variations referred pursuant to section 25 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* or draft Plans of Management referred pursuant to Section 203 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, circulation and publication.

*Minutes of Proceedings (Fourth Assembly) No.2, 28 April 1998*

### **Committee Membership**

Mr Harold Hird MLA (Chair)  
Mr David Rugendyke MLA (Deputy Chair)  
Mr Wayne Berry MLA (discharged on 25 June 1998)  
Mr Simon Corbell MLA (appointed on 25 June 1998)

Secretary: Mr Rod Power

## **Background**

1. Section 25 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* requires the government to refer each draft Plan Variation:  
to an appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly together with a request that the committee report on the draft Plan to the Legislative Assembly.
2. Section 26 of the Land Act states that ‘the Executive shall have regard to any recommendations’ of the appropriate Assembly committee.
3. The Standing Committee on Urban Services is the ‘appropriate’ committee in the Fourth Assembly.
4. On 25 May 1998 the Minister for Urban Services, Mr Brendan Smyth MLA, referred to this committee the draft Variation and background papers relating to draft Variation No.91: *Signs Policies - Amendments to the Territory Plan Written Statement*.

## **The draft Variation**

5. The draft Variation proposes to amend the Territory Plan Written Statement by replacing the existing Signs Policies at Part C3 of the Plan. The amended section is intended to:

recognise the important role of signage;

recognise the visual impact of signage and ensure that it is appropriate and compatible with local amenity;

clarify those aspects of the current policy that have caused interpretation problems and conflicts for both the approval authority and applicants; and

introduce performance base controls which allow a focus on outcomes rather than prescriptive controls.

## **Consideration by the committee**

6. On 26 June 1998 the committee was briefed by officials of the Planning and Land Management Group of the Department of Urban Services. The committee also heard from Mr West (National Neon Signs) who tabled a statement supporting the draft Variation.

## **Recommendation**

7. The committee endorses the draft Variation to the Territory plan No.91: *Signs Policies - Amendments to the Territory Plan Written Statement*

## **Postscript**

8. The *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* requires the ACT Executive to have regard to any recommendation contained in a report of an appropriate

committee of the Legislative Assembly before approving a draft Variation to the Territory Plan. If it does approve a draft Variation following the committee's report, the Executive must table its decision within five sitting days of approval.

9. A further five sitting days is then provided for any member of the Assembly to move that the Variation be rejected in whole or in part. Any such motion must be dealt with by the Assembly within five sitting days.

10. If a Variation is not rejected by the Assembly, the ACT Planning Authority (now the Planning & Land Management Group of the Department of Urban Services) will publish a notice in the *Gazette* specifying the date of commencement of the Variation.

Harold Hird MLA  
Chair

26 June 1998