

1987

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS COMMISSION
AMENDMENT BILL 1987

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the Minister for Transport
the Hon Peter Morris, MHR)

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1987

OUTLINE

The Australian National Railways Commission Amendment Bill 1987 amends the Australian National Railways Commission Act 1983. The amendment has two main purposes:

- (1) to give the Australian National Railways Commission (AN) the authorisation to provide entertainment, including gambling facilities, or other services for its passengers.

AN's passenger services currently lose almost \$30M per year. The introduction of entertainment facilities is part of an overall strategy to improve the viability of AN's services.

- (2) to broaden the powers of Boards of Inquiry established under Section 70 of the Act to examine the causes of accidents and make appropriate recommendations.

Two Boards of Inquiry have been established under Section 70. It is considered future inquiries would benefit from broader powers to consider such issues as causes of accidents. The proposed powers are consistent with provisions for accident inquiries under the Air Navigation Regulations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The amendment will not involve any direct financial cost to the Government.

The introduction of entertainment facilities, which is part of an overall strategy to improve AN's financial viability, is intended to contribute towards maintaining AN's current share of the passenger market and attracting additional patronage.

In the longer term this should improve AN's performance and thus result in a reduced call on taxpayers' funds.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1: Short title

The first clause of the Bill provides for a short title and defines the Principal Act.

Clause 2: Provision of entertainment

This clause provides for Section 13A to be inserted after Section 13 of the Principal Act. Section 13A authorises the Commission to provide entertainment or other services to travellers either on passenger trains or on premises owned or occupied by the Commission in accordance with by-laws.

Terms used throughout the Amendment are defined in sub-clause 2(4).

Clause 3: Inquiries into accidents

Clause 3 extends the provisions of Section 70 of the Principal Act to enable Boards of Inquiry into railway accidents to examine other matters relating to the accident which are specified in the instrument establishing the Board of Inquiry.

Clause 4: By-laws

This clause amends Section 79 of the Principal Act to enable the Commission to make by-laws determining the extent of entertainment and other services and arrangements under which they will be provided.