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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROAD TRANSPORT CHARGES (AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY)
BILL 1992

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by Authority of the Minister for Transport
and Communications, Senator the Hon. Bob Collins)

**ROAD TRANSPORT CHARGES (AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY) BILL
1992**

GENERAL OUTLINE

The purpose of the Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Bill 1992 is to give effect to the National Road Transport Commission's determination regarding annual registration charges for vehicles rated above 4.5 tonnes and permit charges for vehicles operating above 125 tonnes.

The Bill will require the Government of the Australian Capital Territory (the ACT), from 1 July 1995 onwards, to fix annual registration charges for vehicles rated above 4.5 tonnes and to fix charges for the granting of permits to operate vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying indivisible loads where the loaded mass exceeds 125 tonnes. Those charges will be fixed in accordance with the Schedule to the Bill.

The Bill will not affect the existing registration scheme in the ACT other than to fix the charges to be collected when a vehicle is registered. Responsibility for determining registration exemptions or concessional charges will continue to be a matter for the ACT.

The charges do not include, and the Schedule does not preclude, the fixing of fees for administration and other services provided by the ACT.

The registration charges provided for in the Schedule to the Bill may be increased or decreased by regulations under the proposed Act. The amount of increase or decrease is limited to a maximum of 5% per annum.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There will be no significant costs, revenues or savings to the Commonwealth arising from the Bill.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 - Short Title

This clause provides for the proposed Act to be cited as the *Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Act 1992*.

Clause 2 - Obligations of the Government of the Australian Capital Territory

This clause requires the Government of the ACT, from 1 July 1995 and onwards, to fix

- (a) annual registration charges for vehicles which have a Mass Rating for Charging greater than 4.5 tonnes; and
- (b) permit charges for vehicles above 125 tonnes.

Clause 3 - Section 2 is not to affect powers of the ACT Government to do certain things

This clause provides that the ACT Government will not be prevented from continuing to:

- (a) charge registration, inspection and administrative fees;
- (b) make rebates of registration charges for particular classes of vehicles or road users;
- (c) charge pro-rata amounts for registrations for less than a year; and
- (d) make refunds where the registration of a vehicle is surrendered.

Clause 4 - Alteration of amounts specified in the Schedule

This clause provides that the amounts specified in the Schedule may be altered by regulations under the proposed Act, but any alteration must not vary by more than 5% from the amounts which applied in the previous year.

Clause 5 - Regulations

This clause provides that regulations may be made under the proposed Act.

SCHEDULE

Part 1 - Interpretation

This Part defines terms for the purposes of the Schedule and restricts the application of the Schedule to vehicles which have a Mass Rating for Charging greater than 4.5 tonnes.

Part 2 - Registration Charges

This Part sets out the annual registration charges for load carrying vehicles and trailers, buses and special purpose vehicles.

Part 3 - Charges for the grant of a permit to carry an indivisible load on a vehicle with a loaded mass exceeding 125 tonnes

This Part sets out a formula for determining the charge for a permit to operate a vehicle, or a combination of vehicles, with a loaded mass exceeding 125 tonnes and carrying an indivisible load.

