

# LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL 1994

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

### GENERAL OUTLINE

#### Objective of Legislation

The objective of the Bill is to ensure that it remains an offence to be drunk in a public place.

#### Reasons for the Bill

The section of the *Liquor Act 1992* that provided that the offence of public drunkenness was to be removed after a set period, was placed there largely in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report and to allow the Government time to assess alternative strategies for the non-custodial treatment of intoxicated persons.

Experience elsewhere has shown that decriminalisation does not produce the anticipated results, in that, police intervention and detention has increased after decriminalisation rather than decreased.

Further, decriminalisation of public drunkenness fails to respond to a legitimate community expectation regarding law and order.

#### Estimated Cost for Government Implementation

There will be no cost for Government.

#### Consultation

An Interdepartmental Working Group was established in November 1992 to consider the issue of public intoxication and community views were canvassed in the course of its consideration of the issue.

**NOTES ON PROVISION**

*Clause 1* sets out the short title of the Bill

*Clause 2* amends the *Liquor Act 1992*

*Clause 3* omits Section 164(3) of the *Liquor Act 1992* which means that it will continue to be an offence to be drunk in a public place.