

**PUBLIC INFORMATION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 2016**  
**SERIAL NO.**

*Gunner*  
PAPER TABLED  
*26/10/16*  
CLERK: *[Signature]*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

ORIGINAL PAPER  
No. *77*  
*Laid upon the Table*  
*26/10/16*

CHIEF MINISTER

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**GENERAL OUTLINE**

This Bill amends the Public Information Act.

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure Government money spent on public information is done in the public interest.

The Bill includes the power for the Minister to make Regulations that include criteria which public information must meet and standards that public information must meet.

There is also allowance to ensure that, if a Member of the Legislative Assembly requested a review of public information by the Auditor General, that they are provided with a report around the findings.

## **NOTES ON CLAUSES**

### **Clause 1. Short Title.**

The bill when passed may be cited as the *Public Information Amendment Act (No. 2) 2016*.

### **Clause 2. Commencement**

The Act commences on the date fixed by the Administrator in the Gazette.

### **Clause 3. Act amended**

This Act amends the Public Information Act

### **Clause 4. Definitions amended**

Remove definition of public information guidelines

### **Clause 5. Section 5 amended**

Amend Section 5 to provide that Jacana Energy and Territory Generation are not public authorities for the purposes of the Act, consistent with Power and Water Corporation not being a public authority under the existing Act.

### **Clause 6. Section 6 amended**

This Clause inserts section 6 (2)(a) to allow for the Auditor-General to determine the Act is contravened if the content does not meet the criteria prescribed by regulation for the giving of public information.

This Clause also amends Section 6 to insert 6(2)(d) that provides that including in advertising an image of the holder or occupier of the office of a Minister may contravene the Act.

Where photos can be used is inserted in section 6 (5) which allows for a photograph of a Minister to be used in public information if it is for use outside of the Territory and it enhances the effectiveness of the communication.

Allowance for photos of Ministers is also allowed and inserted in (6) when there is an emergency.

**Clause 7. Section 7 amended**

This clause amends section 7 so if the review of public information is requested by a Member of the Assembly that they also receive a copy of the report produced by the Auditor General on their findings. This eliminates the need to retain section 7(4) in the Act and that section is therefore omitted.

**Clause 8. Section 9 repealed**

This clause repeals section 9 in relation to guidelines to support the Act given that the standards and criteria are now prescribed in regulation.

**Clause 9. Expiry of the Act**

This clause states this Act expires on the day after it commences.