

[Act 1997 No 104]



# Gas Supply Amendment Bill 1997

## Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.\*

### Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Gas Supply Act 1996* so as to allow for the making of regulations relating to certain aspects of customer protection.

### Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent.

**Clause 3** amends the *Gas Supply Act 1996* by removing a provision that requires that regulations relating to certain aspects of customer protection must be made, and must take effect, within 6 months of the date of assent to the Act (that is, before 26 December 1996). The removal of the relevant provision will allow the regulations to be made after that date.

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\* Amended in committee—see table at end of volume.

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The relevant regulations must make provision for each of the matters listed in section 83 (3) of the Act. Those matters are as follows:

- (a) standard form contracts to be used in connection with the supply of gas to customers by suppliers and distributors,
- (b) the form and content of bills to be rendered to customers by suppliers and distributors in connection with the supply of gas,
- (c) the debt collection procedures to be observed by suppliers and distributors in relation to amounts owed by customers in connection with the supply of gas,
- (d) the standards of service to be provided to customers by suppliers and distributors in connection with the supply of gas,
- (e) the constitution and procedures of customer councils to advise suppliers and distributors on matters concerning the supply of gas to customers.