

## Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Balloons) Bill 2000

### Explanatory note

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

#### Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to prevent the mass release of lighter-than-air balloons. The Bill will make it an offence to release (or cause or permit the release of) 20 or more lighter-than-air balloons at or about the same time. The maximum penalty will be greater if more than 100 balloons are released. There are to be exceptions where:

- (a) the balloons are released unintentionally and without negligence, or
- (b) the balloons are released and contained indoors, or
- (c) the balloons are hot air balloons that are recovered after landing, or
- (d) the balloons are released for scientific (including meteorological) purposes.

#### 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 a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

**Clause 3** is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* set out in Schedule 1.

**Clause 4** is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Penalty Notices) Regulation 1999* set out in Schedule 2.

#### **Schedule 1 Amendment of Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997**

**Schedule 1 [1]** makes the amendments described in the Overview of the Bill. **Schedule 1 [2]** makes a consequential amendment.

#### **Schedule 2 Amendment of Protection of the Environment Operations (Penalty Notices) Regulation 1999**

The Schedule provides for on-the-spot penalty notices to be given for the offences proposed to be inserted in the Act by Schedule 1 [1].