

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

No. 150 of 1979

AN ACT

To amend the Local Government Act

[Assented to 12 December 1979]

BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia, with the assent as provided by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Local Government Act (No. 4) 1979. Short title
2. The Local Government Act is in this Act referred to as the Principal Act. Principal Act
3. The Principal Act is amended by inserting after section 97 the following section:
"97A. A person issued with a ballot paper in accordance with the terms of this Act shall - Marking ballot papers
 - (a) place the number '1' in the square on the ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate to whom he gives a first preference vote; and
 - (b) place consecutively increasing numbers in the squares opposite the names of the other candidates appearing on the ballot paper in the order of his preference until a number is placed against the names of all candidates appearing on the ballot paper."
4. Section 98 of the Principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted:
"98. A ballot paper is informal for the purposes of this Act if - Informal votes

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- (a) it is not initialled by the presiding officer of the polling place;
- (b) it has no vote indicated on it or it does not indicate the elector's first preference for one candidate and his other preferences for all the remaining candidates except -
 - (i) where the voter has indicated his first preference for one candidate and his other preferences for all the remaining candidates except one and the square opposite the name of that candidate has been left blank, it shall be deemed that the voter's preference for that candidate is his last and that accordingly he has indicated the order of his preference for all the candidates; or
 - (ii) where there are 2 candidates only and the voter has indicated his vote by placing the number "1" in the square opposite the name of one candidate and has left the other square blank, the voter shall be deemed to have indicated the order of his preference for both the candidates;
- (c) it has on it any mark or writing by which, in the opinion of the returning officer, the elector can be identified; or
- (d) it bears any sign, mark, letter or word other than those placed, written or printed on it in accordance with this Act."

Offences in connection with ballot papers

5. Section 368 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following sub-section:

"(2) Subject to this Act, no person shall mark a vote on a ballot paper other than a ballot paper issued to that person.

Penalty: \$500."

Fourth Schedule

6. The Principal Act is amended by omitting from both Forms 1 and 2 in the Fourth Schedule all the words from "Directions to Voter:" to "preference for them" inclusive and substituting the following words:

"Mark your vote on this ballot paper by placing the figure '1' in the square opposite the name of the candidate of your first preference and place the

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figures '2', '3', '4' (and so on, consecutively, as the case requires) in the squares respectively opposite the names of all the remaining candidates."

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be a list or table of candidates and their corresponding figures.]