

Serial 156
Public Information Amendment Bill 2016
Ms Manison

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Public Information Act*

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

PUBLIC INFORMATION AMENDMENT ACT 2016

Act No. [] of 2016

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. [] of 2016

An Act to amend the *Public Information Act*

[Assented to [] 2016]
[Second reading [] 2016]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Public Information Amendment Act 2016*.

2 Act amended

This Act amends the *Public Information Act*.

3 Section 2A inserted

After section 2

insert

2A Object of Act

The object of this Act is to ensure that public information meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (a) the information serves to do any of the following:
 - (i) maximise compliance with the laws of the Territory;
 - (ii) achieve awareness of a new or amended law;
 - (iii) improve public safety or personal security;

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- (iv) encourage responsible behaviour;
 - (v) preserve order in the event of an emergency;
 - (vi) promote awareness of rights, responsibilities, duties or entitlements;
 - (vii) encourage usage of, or familiarity with, government products or services;
- (b) the purpose of the information is to do any of the following:
- (i) report on performance in relation to government undertakings;
 - (ii) communicate functions of government (for example, education campaigns, recruitment, community engagement, expressions of interest, future plans);
 - (iii) communicate on matters of social cohesion, civic pride, community spirit or tolerance.

4 Part 1A inserted

After section 5

insert

Part 1A Standards for giving of public information

5A Ensuring public information is factual

A public authority giving public information must ensure:

- (a) all facts (including comparisons) and statistics are presented accurately and objectively; and
- (b) all arguments are presented objectively; and
- (c) the source of all data is indicated or a means for identifying the data source is provided.

5B Comment by Agencies

An Agency must not, in giving public information, do either of the following:

- (a) comment on the views, policies or actions of a particular political party or politician;

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- (b) attack the views, policies or actions of a particular political party or politician.

5 Section 6 amended

- (1) Section 6(2)(c)

omit

comments.

insert

comments; or

- (2) After section 6(2)(c)

insert

- (d) is an advertisement that includes an image of the holder or occupier of the office of a minister.

- (3) Section 6(3), after "regard to the"

insert

object of this Act and any

- (4) After section 6(4)

insert

- (5) The Auditor-General may determine this Act is not contravened by the use of a photograph of a Minister, or a Minister's message, in the giving of public information if:

- (a) the primary audience for the giving of public information resides outside of the Territory; and

- (b) the Auditor-General is satisfied that the use was intended to increase the effectiveness of the communication.

- (6) The Auditor-General may also determine this Act is not contravened by the use of a photograph of a Minister, or a Minister's message, in the giving of public information if:

- (a) the information is given to the public in a time of emergency; and

-
- (b) the Auditor-General is satisfied that members of the public would be likely to expect demonstrated leadership from government ministers at such a time.

6 Section 7 amended

- (1) Section 7(3)(a)

omit

or

insert

and

- (2) After section 7(3)(a)

(aa) if the review was conducted on the request of an Assembly member – give a copy of the report to the member; and

- (3) Section 7(3)(b), after "include"

insert

a copy of

- (4) Section 7(4)

omit

7 Expiry of Act

This Act expires on the day after it commences.