

# Premier's Circular

Number:	2010/01
Issue Date:	11/02/2010
Review Date:	11/02/2012

## TITLE

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL

## POLICY

The *Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bills* ("the Omnibus Bills") provide an avenue for introducing a range of minor legislative amendments and repeals that do not affect the substance of the law. Omnibus Bills make the Government's legislative program and parliamentary business more efficient by reducing the number of Bills that would otherwise be required to deal with these minor amendments and repeals.

Examples of matters that may be suitable for inclusion include:

- the repeal of obsolete legislation;
- the correction of typographical, grammatical and other minor errors of presentation;
- amendments to update names, titles, entities, designations etc.

A provision will be included in an Omnibus Bill only if its effect is clear on the face of the provision.

An Omnibus Bill is not a vehicle for implementing a change in Government policy or dealing with an issue that may be controversial or legally or otherwise contentious.

A matter will not be included in an Omnibus Bill if it:

- affects any existing right, obligation, power, or duty; or
- changes any process provided for in legislation; or
- involves the insertion of multiple new sections into an Act.

## BACKGROUND

The Department of the Attorney General is responsible for preparation and introduction of Omnibus Bills. A Minister wanting to have a matter dealt with in an Omnibus Bill should make a request in writing to the Director General, Department of the Attorney General, and provide details of a departmental instructing officer for further consultation.

The Department of the Attorney General will scrutinise the proposed matter to ensure that it is suitable to be dealt with in an Omnibus Bill. If the matter is suitable, the Department of the Attorney General will forward the request to the Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. The Department of the Attorney General will liaise with the departmental instructing officer to prepare explanatory notes to accompany the Omnibus Bill.

The final decision about whether a matter is suitable to be dealt with in an Omnibus Bill lies with the Attorney General acting in consultation with the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

The intention is that an Omnibus Bill will be introduced annually or, if needed, in each of the Autumn and Spring sittings during a year.

The Bill is introduced into Parliament in the Legislative Council and is scrutinised by the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review to ensure that it includes only matters that are suitable for inclusion in an Omnibus Bill.

**COLIN BARNETT MLA**  
**PREMIER**

For enquiries contact:	Peter Richards 9264 1076 Department of the Attorney General
Other relevant Circulars:	N/A
Circular/s replaced by this Circular:	2003/15