



19 August 2011

## CANBERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL WELCOMES PASSAGE OF TERRITORIES BILL

Canberra Business Council is pleased the Senate yesterday passed the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010* and now looks forward to a quick passage through the House of Representatives.

“This legislation is important for the people of the ACT as it will finally give us the same democratic rights as other Australians,” Canberra Business Council CEO, Chris Faulks said.

“Until this Bill is passed by the Parliament any laws made in the ACT can be vetoed by a Federal Minister.

“The legislation is designed to ensure that ACT laws can only be overturned after a debate and vote in both houses of Parliament, as is currently the case for laws established by the States.

“Labor and the Greens supported the Bill in the Senate and this is a positive sign for its chances of being passed by the House.

“I urge the Government to introduce the legislation into the House of Representatives as soon as possible to give Canberrans the certainty that comes from knowing the Territory has the power to establish its own laws.”

Canberra Business Council made a submission to the Senate Inquiry on this legislation and also called for the ACT to be given the freedom to determine the size of its Legislative Assembly. It believes a larger Legislative Assembly will improve constituent representation, ensure appropriate parliamentary contribution to committees and strengthen Executive governance.

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