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## Telemarketing Contracts Targeted

Territory consumers will have greater protection from telemarketers following the passage of legislation in Parliament.

The Justice Minister Peter Toyne said the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Amendment Act* extends protection provisions dealing with door-to-door sales to unsolicited phone calls.

"The legislation is designed to protect consumers from high-pressure selling tactics that result in contracts formed as part of unsolicited phone calls," he said.

"The provisions will prohibit certain unfair terms in contracts, provide for a cooling-off period and the right to rescind contracts made through telemarketing."

Dr Toyne said the legislation also prohibits calls on Sundays and at certain other times and provides for restitution in some circumstances.

"Telemarketing is much more prolific than ever before and Territorians should have the same protections regardless of whether a salesman turns up at their door or rings them."

Another provision in the *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Amendment Act* changes the definition of "motor vehicle".

Dr Toyne said the definition under the former Act included a vehicle "propelled by volatile spirit, steam, gas, oil and electricity".

"Given rising fuel prices and the rapid pace of technological advancements, hydrocarbon produced from other means besides petroleum may be a possibility in the future. Any car fuelled by such means in the Territory would not strictly fit the criteria," Dr Toyne said.

"The Act amends the definition in anticipation of such cars appearing on the market."

The *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Amendment Act* also clarifies the relevant Minister and the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs are protected from legal action when issuing warnings about goods, services, businesses or individuals.

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