A proposed change of name of the Federal Capital Territory to Australian Capital Territory, is proposed in an amending Seat of Government Acceptance Bill which is being introduced in the House of Representatives.

Although the official title of the Territory for the Seat of Government, usage and convenience have led to the term Federal Capital Territory being used generally.

The only departure in the past from usage or the legal title originally conferred, has been by the Attorney-General's Department, which created the title Australian Capital Territory in connection with the Supreme Court. This title, which has proved cumbersome and is generally regarded as unsuitable, is not sought to be imposed by amending Bill.

An amending bill, which was introduced late last year by the former Minister for the Interior (Mr. Paterson), proposed to change the title from the unwieldy phrase "Territory for the Seat of Government" to "Federal Capital Territory."

The bill was not proceeded with and lapsed when the Parliament was prorogued for the June session. It was
It was then re-introduced on June 17 by the acting-Prime Minister (Dr. Page) when it still proposed a change to Federal Capital Territory.

This bill also lapsed because of the elections. The bill was brought in for the third time on Tuesday by the Prime Minister, but proposed to alter the title to "Australian Capital Territory."

The alteration of the single word will involve considerable expense. For instance, it will necessitate new number plates being issued to the 2500 private cars and hundreds of commercial vehicles in the Territory. Road signs and a large amount of printed matter and equipment would also have to be changed at unnecessary expense.

Government stationery will also have to be changed, but this will be done only when the stocks on hand are exhausted. The time would therefore, when some departments will be sending letters from the F.C.T., while others are mailing them from the A.C.T.

It was stated yesterday by officials of the Department of the Interior, which administers Canberra, that the territory has been only colloquially known as F.C.T. There is a precedent for the alteration from Territory for
for the alteration from Territory for
the Seat of Government to A.C.T. be-
cause the Supreme Court has always
been known officially as the Supreme
Court of the Australian Capital Terri-
tory. The reason for the change was
stated to be because the new title
would be more self explanatory, par-
ticularly for overseas countries. The
argument is not regarded as sound
in many departments and it is under-
stood that even officers of the Attor-
ney-General’s Department admit pri-
vately that the title is not happily
chosen.

The proposed change is not wel-
comed in business circles, it being
pointed out that the most convenient
and apt title has already been de-
cided by the usage of the last 12
years. The new title, it is pointed
out, will create confusion, not only in
Australia but abroad, where either the
redundant address Australian Capital
Territory, Australia, will be employed
or one or the other lines of the ad-
dress may be dropped. This would
lead to delays through the similarity
in names of some Canberra districts to
towns elsewhere in Australia.