

Queensland



# MOBILE HOMES ACT 1989

**Reprinted as in force on 19 July 1996  
(includes amendments up to Act No. 87 of 1994)**

**Reprint No. 1A**

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the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel  
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# Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 19 July 1996. The reprint shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(c)).

The reprint includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made—see list of legislation and list of annotations in endnotes.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprint for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A table of earlier reprints is included in the endnotes.

**Also see endnotes for information about—**

- **when provisions commenced**
- **editorial changes made in earlier reprints.**

# Queensland



## MOBILE HOMES ACT 1989

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# MOBILE HOMES ACT 1989

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 19 July 1996]

## **An Act to provide with respect to the siting and occupancy of mobile homes and for related purposes**

### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the *Mobile Homes Act 1989*.

### **Commencement**

2.(1) Section 1 and this section shall commence on the day this Act is assented to for an on behalf of Her Majesty.

(2) Except as provided by subsection (1), the provisions of this Act or such of them as are specified in the proclamation shall commence on a day or days appointed by proclamation.

### **Interpretation**

3.(1) In this Act—

“**by-law**” means in relation to Brisbane City Council, a local law;

“**caravan**” means—

- (a) a vehicle ordinarily fitted with wheels and designed for attachment to a motor vehicle; or
- (b) a vehicle designed for use as part of a motor vehicle; and designed for use for residence therein;

“**mobile home**” means a structure (other than a caravan) prescribed by regulation;

“**occupier**” means a person who under a relevant agreement is entitled to

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occupy a mobile home positioned on a site;

**“owner”** means, in relation to a site, the person who is the registered proprietor or registered mortgagee in possession of an estate in fee simple in the site;

**“relevant agreement”** means an agreement under which a person is entitled—

- (a) to position a mobile home on a site; and
- (b) to occupy the mobile home as the person’s only or principal place of residence;

**“site”** means land made available for positioning of mobile homes under relevant agreements and includes every part of such land;

**“spouse”** means, in relation to—

- (a) an occupier who is male—a woman; or
- (b) an occupier who is female—a man;

who is residing with the occupier in a relationship of man and wife, whether within or outside the bond of marriage and, in relation to an occupier who is deceased, was so residing up to the time of death.

(2) The rights and remedies conferred on an occupier by this Act are in addition to and not in derogation of or substitution for rights and remedies that would be had in law by an occupier apart from this Act.

(3) Where before the commencement of this section a person who is not the owner within the meaning of this Act has made a relevant agreement relating to a site with another who has thereby become an occupier, a reference in this Act, except in section 8(1) or (2), to **“owner”** shall be construed to include reference to that person, and, for the purposes of a provision of this Act, except section 8(1) or (2), that contains reference to **“owner of a site”**, that person shall be deemed to be the owner of the site.

### **Particulars of agreement**

4.(1) Within 3 months after the making of a relevant agreement, the owner of the site shall give to the occupier a written statement that—

- (a) specifies the names and addresses of the parties to the relevant agreement and the date of commencement of the agreement; and

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- (b) includes particulars of the land on which the occupier is entitled to position the mobile home, sufficient to identify the position of the mobile home; and
- (c) specifies the express terms of the relevant agreement and the terms implied by an order under section 5(2); and
- (d) complies with such other requirements as are prescribed by the regulations.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

**(1A)** The owner of the site must not charge a fee for giving the statement.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

**(2)** Where a relevant agreement was made before the commencement of this section, the written statement shall be given as prescribed within 6 months after that commencement.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

**(3)** Where the owner of the site is bound by and has the benefit of a relevant agreement only by reason of section 8(2) it shall be sufficient compliance with subsection (1) or (2) or with an order made under subsection (5) if the person who made the agreement, not being the occupier thereunder, gives the written statement as prescribed.

**(4)** A reference in subsection (1) or (2) to the making of a relevant agreement includes reference to any variation of an agreement by reason of which the agreement becomes a relevant agreement.

**(5)** Where an owner of a site fails to comply with this section, the occupier may, in a court of competent jurisdiction, apply for and obtain an order that requires the owner to give to the occupier a statement that complies with subsection (1).

### **Terms of agreements**

**5.(1)** The terms specified in Part 1 of Schedule 1 shall be implied in every relevant agreement, notwithstanding any express term of the agreement or any other agreement made or acknowledgment given by the occupier.

(2) A Small Claims Tribunal may, on the application of either party to a relevant agreement, which application is made at any time during the currency of the agreement, order that there shall be implied in the agreement terms concerning all or any of the matters specified in Part 2 of Schedule 1.

(3) A Small Claims Tribunal may, on the application of either party to a relevant agreement, which application is made within 6 months of the giving of the statement required by section 4(1), by order vary or delete any express term of the agreement.

(4) On an application under this section the Small Claims Tribunal may make such provision as it considers reasonable and just in the circumstances.

(5) Upon the making of an order on an application under this section the relevant agreement shall be construed and given effect in accordance with the order.

### **Successors in title**

**6.(1)** A relevant agreement is binding on and enures for the benefit of any successor in title of the owner of the site and any person claiming through or under the owner or any such successor.

(2) Where a relevant agreement is lawfully assigned to any person, the agreement shall be binding on and shall enure for the benefit of that person.

(3) Where a person who is bound by and has the benefit of a relevant agreement dies at a time when the person is occupying the mobile home under the agreement as the person's only or principal place of residence, the agreement shall be binding on and shall enure for the benefit of—

- (a) any person residing with that person (“**the deceased**”) at that time, being—
  - (i) the spouse of the deceased; or
  - (ii) in default of a spouse so residing—a member of the deceased's household; or
- (b) in default of any such person so residing—the person entitled to the mobile home by virtue of the deceased's will or the law relating to intestacy, as the case may be, but subject to subsection (4).



(4) A relevant agreement shall not be binding on or enure for the benefit of a person by reason of subsection (3)(b) in so far as—

- (a) it would, but for this subsection, require or enable that person to occupy the mobile home; or
- (b) a term contained or implied therein would entitle the owner to terminate, with or without an order of a Small Claims Tribunal, the agreement on the ground specified in clause 4(c) of Part 1 of Schedule 1; or
- (c) it includes a term implied therein by virtue of clause 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 1.

(5) To the extent that a relevant agreement is binding on and enures for the benefit of a person by reason of subsection (3)(b) that person shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to be the occupier.

### **Strictures on conduct of site**

**8.(1)** A person—

- (a) shall not make available land as a site, unless the person is the owner of the land;
- (b) shall not make a relevant agreement with another who thereby becomes an occupier, unless the person is the owner of the site to which the agreement relates.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

(2) Where a person, not being the owner of the site, makes a relevant agreement with another who thereby becomes an occupier—

- (a) the person shall be deemed to have made the agreement as the authorised agent of the owner; and
- (b) the agreement is valid, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1); and
- (c) the agreement is binding on and enures for the benefit of the owner.

(3) An owner of a site—

- (a) shall not limit the occupancy of the site to a mobile home sold or

provided by any specific person, unless the site to be occupied has not previously been occupied by a mobile home;

- (b) shall not restrict or interfere with an occupier's efforts to sell his or her mobile home positioned on the site;
- (c) shall not charge a fee in connection with a sale or attempted sale of a mobile home positioned on the site unless—
  - (i) the owner has rendered some service with respect to the sale or attempted sale; and
  - (ii) at the time the service is rendered there is an agreement between the owner and the occupier for the payment of a fee for the service.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

(4) If an owner of a site is entitled to charge a fee for a service rendered in relation to the sale or attempted sale of a mobile home by an occupier, the amount of the fee demanded or accepted by the owner must not be more than the prescribed amount.

### **Termination of agreement**

9.(1) The owner of a site shall not terminate a relevant agreement unless the owner has, on application made to a Small Claims Tribunal, obtained an order that permits the owner so to do.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

(2) A putative termination of a relevant agreement in contravention of subsection (1) is void and without effect.

### **Grant of jurisdiction**

10.(1) Jurisdiction is hereby conferred on every Small Claims Tribunal to hear and determine all applications made to it pursuant to or for the purposes of this Act.

(1A) Exercise of such jurisdiction shall be subject to and in accordance with this Act.

(2) A Small Claims Tribunal shall not make an order that permits an

owner of a site to terminate a relevant agreement unless—

- (a) the tribunal is satisfied that the ground on which application for the order is based has been made out; and
- (b) the tribunal is satisfied that the making of the order is reasonable and just in the circumstances.

(3) Where application is made to a Small Claims Tribunal for an order that permits termination of a relevant agreement on the ground specified in clause 4(f) of Part 1 of Schedule 1, if in the circumstances, the tribunal considers the owner of the site should bear the whole or part of the occupier's expenses of relocating the mobile home to which the agreement relates, the tribunal shall not make the order unless it is satisfied that the owner has paid a sum sufficient for that purpose (assessed by the tribunal, should the case require it) to or on account of the occupier.

### **Recovery by occupier of certain moneys**

#### **11. Where—**

- (a) as a consequence of an owner of a site not having the approval or permission of a local government, or of a person on behalf of a local government, for the use of land as a site, an occupier is compelled to relocate a mobile home from the site; or
- (b) in accordance with section 10(3) a Small Claims Tribunal has assessed a sum to be paid by an owner of a site before the tribunal will make an order, such as is referred to in section 10(2), and that sum has not been paid;

the occupier may recover from the owner by way of action for a debt, due and owing and unpaid, in a court of competent jurisdiction or by way of claim for payment of money before a Small Claims Tribunal (if the amount sought is within the jurisdiction of the tribunal) the occupier's expenses reasonably incurred in relocating the mobile home or, as the case may be, the sum so assessed.

### **Owner of site must comply with cl 6(2A) of implied terms**

**11A.(1)** An owner of a site who does not comply with clause 6(2A) of the implied terms of a relevant agreement mentioned in Part 1 of Schedule 1

commits an offence.

Maximum penalty—90 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

- (2) An owner does not commit an offence against subsection (1) if—
- (a) the owner reasonably asked the occupier concerned for information about the proposed assignee to help the owner to make a decision to which clause 6(2A) applies; and
  - (b) the occupier did not comply with the request.

### **Proceedings for offences**

**13.(1)** Proceedings for an offence against this Act shall be taken in a summary way under the *Justices Act 1886* upon the complaint of any person authorised in that behalf by the Minister.

(2) If in a complaint relating to an offence against this Act the complainant is described as authorised as prescribed to lay the complaint, it shall not be necessary to prove that authority, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

### **Evidentiary provision**

**14.** In any proceedings for the purposes of this Act or relating to a relevant agreement or to which any matter provided for by this Act is material—

- (a) a copy of the statement that purports to be given by or on behalf of the owner of a site to an occupier as to all or any of the matters referred to in section 4(1) is admissible as evidence of the matters stated; and
- (b) a certificate purporting to be that of the registrar of a Small Claims Tribunal as to the making of an order under section 5 and as to the particulars of the order is admissible as evidence of the matters stated in the certificate; and
- (c) a certificate purporting to be that of the registrar of a Small Claims Tribunal as to a sum assessed by the tribunal under section 10(3) is admissible as evidence of the matters stated in the certificate.

**Regulations**

**15.(1)** The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

**(2)** A regulation may make provision with respect to—

- (a) the forms to be used under this Act; or
- (b) enforcing orders of Small Claims Tribunals and the powers of persons enforcing the orders.

**Application to existing agreements**

**16.** The provisions of this Act apply, not only in respect of relevant agreements made after the commencement of this section and the parties thereto, but, with the exception of sections 7 and 8(1), (2) and (3)(a), also in respect of relevant agreements made before that commencement and the parties thereto.

## **SCHEDULE 1**

### **PART 1—TERMS IMPLIED IN RELEVANT AGREEMENTS**

section 5(1)

#### **Duration of agreement**

1. Subject to clause 2, the right to position a mobile home on the site shall subsist until the agreement is duly terminated in accordance with the *Mobile Homes Act 1989*.

2.(1) If the owner's entitlement to use the land as a site is of limited duration, by reason of any planning scheme or an approval or permission of the relevant local government, the period for which the right subsists shall not extend beyond the duration of the owner's entitlement.

(2) If before the expiry of the period for which the right would subsist pursuant to subclause (1) there is a change in circumstances that allows for a longer duration of the right, account shall be taken of that change.

#### **Termination by occupier**

3. The occupier is entitled to terminate the agreement by written notice given to the owner not less than 4 weeks before the date on which termination is to take effect.

#### **Termination by owner**

4. The owner is entitled to apply to a Small Claims Tribunal for an order that permits termination of the agreement and, subject to the order being made, is entitled to terminate the agreement on any of the following grounds—

- (a) the occupier has committed a breach of a term of the agreement and, after service on the occupier of a notice to remedy the breach,

## SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

- has not complied with the notice within a reasonable time;
- (b) the occupier has unlawfully assaulted or threatened to unlawfully assault, or has procured another to unlawfully assault or threaten to unlawfully assault the owner of, or other person lawfully on, the site, or has wilfully destroyed or damaged or threatened to destroy or damage, or has procured another to destroy or damage or threaten to destroy or damage property, other than property of the occupier, on the site;
  - (c) the occupier is not occupying the mobile home positioned on the site as the occupier's only or principal place of residence;
  - (d) the recurrent behaviour on the site of the occupier, or of any person residing with or associated with the occupier, interferes with the quiet enjoyment of the site by any other occupier;
  - (e) the mobile home positioned on the site, having regard to its age and condition is having a detrimental effect on the amenity of the site;
  - (f) the relevant local government has granted its approval of the use of the site for a purpose other than as a site.

**Recovery of overpayments by occupier**

5. Where the agreement is terminated pursuant to clause 3 or 4, the occupier is entitled to recover from the owner so much of any payment made by the occupier pursuant to the agreement as is attributable to a period after the termination.

**Sale of mobile homes**

6.(1) The occupier is entitled—

- (a) to sell the mobile home; and
- (b) to assign the occupier's rights and obligations under the agreement to a person approved by the owner.

## SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

(2) The owner must not unreasonably refuse to approve a proposed assignee.

(2A) If the occupier gives the owner a written request to approve a proposed assignee, the owner must, within 1 month of receiving the request—

- (a) give the occupier written notice of the owner's decision; and
- (b) if the owner refuses the request—give written reasons for the refusal.

(3) In the occupier's efforts to sell the mobile home, the occupier shall not engage in, or permit others on the occupier's behalf to engage in, acts that affect the environment of the site or the quiet enjoyment of the site by other occupiers.

**Gift of mobile home**

7.(1) The occupier is entitled to give the mobile home and to assign his or her rights and obligations under the agreement to a member of the occupier's family approved by the owner, who shall not unreasonably withhold approval.

(2) For the purposes of this clause the reference to a member of the occupier's family includes—

- (a) the spouse of the occupier; and
- (b) a child, grandchild or step-child of the occupier.

**Repositioning of mobile home**

8. If the owner is entitled to require the occupier to reposition the mobile home on another part of the site—

- (a) that other part of the site shall be broadly comparable to the part of the site on which the occupier was originally entitled to position the mobile home; and
- (b) all expenses incurred in consequence of the requirement shall be paid by the owner.



## SCHEDULE 1 (continued)

**PART 2—MATTERS CONCERNING WHICH TERMS  
MAY BE IMPLIED**

section 5(2)

1. The right of the occupier to quiet enjoyment.
2. The sums payable by the occupier pursuant to the agreement and the times at which they are to be paid.
3. The review at yearly intervals of sums payable by the occupier pursuant to the agreement.
4. The provision or improvement of services available to occupiers on the site, and the use by the occupier of such services.
5. The preservation of the amenity of the site.
6. The maintenance and repair of the site by the owner, and the maintenance and repair of the mobile home by the occupier.
7. Access by the owner to the land on which the occupier is entitled to position the mobile home.

**ENDNOTES****1 Index to Endnotes**

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**2 Date to which amendments incorporated**

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 19 July 1996. Future amendments of the Mobile Homes Act 1989 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

### 3 Key

#### Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

|        |   |                              |        |   |                                |
|--------|---|------------------------------|--------|---|--------------------------------|
| AIA    | = | Acts Interpretation Act 1954 | (prev) | = | previously                     |
| amd    | = | amended                      | proc   | = | proclamation                   |
| ch     | = | chapter                      | prov   | = | provision                      |
| def    | = | definition                   | pt     | = | part                           |
| div    | = | division                     | pubd   | = | published                      |
| exp    | = | expires/expired              | R[X]   | = | Reprint No.[X]                 |
| gaz    | = | gazette                      | RA     | = | Reprints Act 1992              |
| hdg    | = | heading                      | reloc  | = | relocated                      |
| ins    | = | inserted                     | renum  | = | renumbered                     |
| lap    | = | lapsed                       | rep    | = | repealed                       |
| notfd  | = | notified                     | s      | = | section                        |
| om     | = | omitted                      | sch    | = | schedule                       |
| o in c | = | order in council             | sdiv   | = | subdivision                    |
| p      | = | page                         | SIA    | = | Statutory Instruments Act 1992 |
| para   | = | paragraph                    | SL     | = | subordinate legislation        |
| prec   | = | preceding                    | sub    | = | substituted                    |
| pres   | = | present                      | unnum  | = | unnumbered                     |
| prev   | = | previous                     |        |   |                                |

### 4 Table of earlier reprints

#### TABLE OF EARLIER REPRINTS

[If a reprint number includes an arabic letter, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.]

| Reprint No. | Amendments included   | Reprint date  |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1           | to Act No. 82 of 1993 | 28 March 1994 |

### 5 Tables in earlier reprints

#### TABLES IN EARLIER REPRINTS

| Name of Table         | Reprint No. |
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| Changed titles        | 1           |
| Renumbered provisions | 1           |

## **6 List of legislation**

### **Mobile Homes Act 1989 No. 50**

date of assent 5 May 1989

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

s 7 never proclaimed into force and om 1994 No. 87 s 3 sch 3 pt 1

remaining provisions commenced 9 September 1989 (proc pubd gaz  
9 September 1989 p 212)

as amended by—

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 No. 103 ss 1–3 sch**

date of assent 25 October 1989

commenced on date of assent

### **Public Service (Administrative Arrangements) Act 1990 (No. 2) No. 80 ss 1–3 sch 6**

date of assent 14 November 1990

commenced 31 August 1989 (see s 2(2)(b))

### **Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 No. 40 ss 1–2(1)(a), pt 3A**

date of assent 14 August 1992

ss 1, 2(1)(a) commenced on date of assent

ss 134–135 commenced 14 February 1994 (1994 SL No. 32)

remaining provisions commenced on date of assent

### **Consumer Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 No. 82 pts 1, 7, s 3 sch 1**

date of assent 17 December 1993

commenced on date of assent

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1994 No. 87 ss 1–3 sch 3 pt 1**

date of assent 1 December 1994

commenced on date of assent

## **7 List of annotations**

### **Interpretation**

- s 3** def “**Local Authority**” om 1992 No. 40 s 134(1)  
 def “**Minister**” ins 1990 No. 80 s 3 sch 6  
 om 1992 No. 40 s 134(1)  
 def “**mobile home**” sub 1992 No. 40. s 134

### **Particulars of agreement**

- s 4** amd 1993 No. 82 s 38

### **Local government’s approval**

- s 7** om 1994 No. 87 s 3 sch 3 pt 1

### **Strictures on conduct of site**

- s 8** amd 1992 No. 40 s 135; 1993 No. 82 s 3 sch 1

**Termination of agreement**

**s 9** amd 1993 No. 82 s 3 sch 1

**Grant of jurisdiction**

**s 10** amd 1989 No. 103 s 3 sch

**Recovery by occupier of certain moneys**

**s 11** amd 1989 No. 103 s 3 sch

**Owner of site must comply with cl 6(2A) of implied terms**

**s 11A** ins 1993 No. 82 s 39

**Penalty provision**

**s 12** om 1993 No. 82 s 3 sch 1

**Proceedings for offences**

**s 13** amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 sch 6

**Evidentiary provision**

**s 14** amd 1989 No. 103 s 3 sch; 1993 No. 82 s 3 sch 1

**Regulations**

**s 15** sub 1993 No. 82 s 3 sch 1

**Amendment Small Claims Tribunal Act**

**s 17** amd 1989 No. 103 s 3 sch  
om (see RA s 40)

**SCHEDULE 1**

amd 1992 No. 40 s 136; 1993 No. 82 s 40