



First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

Reprinted as in force on 11 December 2008

Reprint No. 2B

**This reprint is prepared by
the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel
Warning—This reprint is not an authorised copy**

Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 11 December 2008. 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. Also see list of legislation for any uncommenced amendments.

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

Also see endnotes for information about—

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

Spelling

The spelling of certain words or phrases may be inconsistent in this reprint or with other reprints because of changes made in various editions of the Macquarie Dictionary (for example, in the dictionary, ‘lodgement’ has replaced ‘lodgment’). Variations of spelling will be updated in the next authorised reprint.

Dates shown on reprints

Reprints dated at last amendment All reprints produced on or after 1 July 2002, authorised (that is, hard copy) and unauthorised (that is, electronic), are dated as at the last date of amendment. Previously reprints were dated as at the date of publication. If an authorised reprint is dated earlier than an unauthorised version published before 1 July 2002, it means the legislation was not further amended and the reprint date is the commencement of the last amendment.

If the date of an authorised reprint is the same as the date shown for an unauthorised version previously published, it merely means that the unauthorised version was published before the authorised version. Also, any revised edition of the previously published unauthorised version will have the same date as that version.

Replacement reprint date If the date of an authorised reprint is the same as the date shown on another authorised reprint it means that one is the replacement of the other.



Queensland

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

Contents

		Page
Part 1	Preliminary	
1	Short title	5
2	Commencement	5
Part 2	Interpretation	
Division 1	General	
3	Definitions	5
Division 2	Basic concepts	
4	Meaning of eligibility criteria	6
5	Meaning of eligible transaction	6
6	Meaning of home	7
7	Meaning of home owner or owner of a home	7
8	Meaning of relevant interest	7
9	Meaning of spouse	9
Part 3	First home owner grants	
Division 1	Entitlement to grant	
10	When grant is payable	10
Division 2	Eligibility criteria—applicants	
11	Criterion 1—Applicant to be a natural person and at least 18 years of age	11
12	Criterion 2—Applicant to be Australian citizen or permanent resident	11
13	Criterion 3—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have received an earlier grant	11
14	Criterion 4—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have had relevant interest in residential property	12
15	Criterion 5—Residence requirements	13
Division 3	Application for grant	
16	Application for grant	14

17	All interested persons to join in application	14
18	Application on behalf of person under legal disability	14
Division 4	Decision on application	
19	Commissioner to decide applications.	15
20	Amount of grant	15
21	Payment of grant	15
22	Payment in anticipation of compliance with residence requirements	15
23	Conditions generally.	16
24	Death of applicant	17
25	Notice of decision	17
Division 5	Special eligible transactions	
25A	Meaning of new home for div 5	18
25B	Meaning of special eligible transaction for div 5	19
25C	Amount of grant	20
Part 4	Authorised officers, investigations and enforcement	
Division 1	Authorised officers	
26	Appointment.	21
27	Limitation of authorised officer's powers	21
28	Authorised officer's appointment conditions.	21
29	Authorised officer's identity card.	22
30	Production or display of authorised officer's identity card	22
Division 2	Investigations	
Subdivision 1	Cross-border investigations	
31	Commissioner may carry out investigations under corresponding laws	23
Subdivision 2	General powers on investigations	
32	Powers on investigation	23
Subdivision 3	Entry of places	
33	Authorised officer's power to enter places	24
34	Entry with consent	24
35	Application for warrant	25
36	Issue of warrant	26
37	Special warrants.	26
38	Warrants—procedure before entry.	28
Subdivision 4	Powers of authorised officers on entry to places	
39	General powers for places	29

Subdivision 5	General enforcement matters	
40	Notice of damage	30
41	Compensation	30
42	False or misleading documents	31
43	False or misleading statements	31
44	Obstruction of authorised officers.	32
45	Impersonation of authorised officer	32
46	Access to particular records without fee.	32
Division 3	Repayments and penalties	
47	Commissioner may require repayment and impose penalty	32
48	Recovery of amount paid in error etc.	33
49	Registering charge over land	34
50	Effect of writing off liability	34
51	Penalty amounts to be alternative to prosecution.	34
51A	Court may order repayment etc.	35
Division 4	Legal proceedings	
52	Statements in complaint	35
53	Evidentiary certificates	36
54	Summary proceedings for offences	36
55	When proceedings must start.	36
Part 5	Objections and appeals	
Division 1	Objections	
56	Lodging objection	37
57	Deciding objection	37
58	Notice of decision	37
Division 2	Appeals	
59	Right of appeal	38
60	How to start appeal	38
61	Grounds of appeal	38
62	Hearing procedures	38
63	Decision on appeal.	39
64	Appeals to District Court	39
Part 6	Miscellaneous provisions	
65	Delegations	39
66	Administration agreements.	39
67	Protection from liability	40
68	Offence to disclose confidential information.	40

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

69	Use of information obtained under taxation laws	42
69A	Disqualifying arrangements	42
70	Approved forms	44
71	Regulation-making power.	44
Part 7	Transitional provisions for First Home Owner Grant Amendment Act 2003	
72	Continuing operation of Act for particular eligible transactions. . .	45
74	Transitional provision for particular approved form.	45
Schedule	Dictionary	46
 Endnotes		
1	Index to endnotes.	51
2	Date to which amendments incorporated.	51
3	Key	52
4	Table of reprints	52
5	Tables in earlier reprints.	53
6	List of legislation.	53
7	List of annotations	54
8	List of forms notified or published in the gazette	55
9	Information about retrospectivity	56

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 11 December 2008]

An Act to encourage and help home ownership, and to offset the effect of the GST on home ownership, by establishing a scheme for the payment of grants to first home owners

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on 1 July 2000.

Part 2 Interpretation

Division 1 General

3 Definitions

The dictionary in the schedule defines particular words used in this Act.

Division 2 Basic concepts

4 Meaning of *eligibility criteria*

The *eligibility criteria* are the criteria, under part 3, division 2, for deciding whether an applicant for a first home owner grant is eligible for the grant.

5 Meaning of *eligible transaction*

- (1) An *eligible transaction* is—
 - (a) a contract made on or after 1 July 2000 for the purchase of a home in the State; or
 - (b) a comprehensive home building contract made on or after 1 July 2000 by the owner of land in the State, or a person who will on completion of the contract, be the owner of land in the State, to have a home built on the land; or
 - (c) the building of a home in the State by an owner builder if the building work starts on or after 1 July 2000.
- (2) For subsection (1)(a), a contract is a contract for the purchase of a home if the contract is a contract for the acquisition of a relevant interest in land—
 - (a) on which a home is built; or
 - (b) on which a home is to be built, before completion of the contract, by or for the vendor and at the expense of the vendor.
- (3) If, on or after 1 July 2000, a person purchases a building and intends to use it as a place of residence on land in which the person has a relevant interest but on which it is not situated at the time of purchase, the contract for the purchase of the building is taken to be a contract to have a home built.
- (4) However, a contract is not an eligible transaction if the commissioner is satisfied it forms part of a scheme to circumvent limitations on, or requirements affecting, eligibility or entitlement to a first home owner grant.

- (5) Unless satisfied to the contrary, the commissioner must presume the existence of a scheme mentioned in subsection (4) if—
- (a) for a contract to purchase a home—the purchaser had an option to purchase the home granted before 1 July 2000 or the vendor had an option to require the purchaser to purchase the home granted before that date; or
 - (b) for a comprehensive home building contract—either party had a right or option granted before 1 July 2000 to require the other to enter into the contract.

6 Meaning of *home*

A *home* is a building, fixed to land, that—

- (a) may lawfully be used as a place of residence; and
- (b) is a suitable building for use as a place of residence.

7 Meaning of *home owner* or *owner* of a home

A person is a *home owner* or *owner* of a home if the person has a relevant interest in the land on which the home is built.

8 Meaning of *relevant interest*

- (1) A *relevant interest* in land¹ is—
- (a) an estate in fee simple in the land; or
 - (b) a life estate in the land; or
 - (c) a perpetual lease of the land granted by the Commonwealth or the State; or
 - (d) a leasehold interest in the land granted by the Commonwealth or the State that may be converted into an estate in fee simple under the terms of the lease or the Act under which the lease is granted; or

¹ Also, see the schedule, definition *residential property* and section 14 (Criterion 4—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have had relevant interest in residential property).

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

- (e) a term lease for pastoral purposes granted under the *Land Act 1994*; or
 - (f) an interest as purchaser under—
 - (i) a contract for the purchase from the Commonwealth or the State, or any Commonwealth or State instrumentality or authority, of an estate in fee simple in the land by instalments; or
 - (ii) an instalment contract under the *Property Law Act 1974*, part 6, division 4, for the purchase of an estate in fee simple in the land; or
 - (g) a licence or right of occupancy granted by the Commonwealth or the State, or any Commonwealth or State instrumentality or authority, that gives, in the commissioner's opinion, the licensee or the holder of the right reasonable security of tenure; or
 - (h) an interest in a company's shares if the commissioner is satisfied that—
 - (i) the interest entitles the holder of the interest to exclusive occupation of a specified home owned by the company; and
 - (ii) the value of the shares is not less than the value of the company's interest in the home; or
 - (i) another interest declared by regulation to be a relevant interest.
- (2) However—
- (a) an interest is not a relevant interest at a particular time unless the holder of the interest has, or will have within 1 year after that time, a right to immediate occupation of the land; and
 - (b) an interest is not a relevant interest in the hands of a person who holds it subject to a trust.
- (3) A regulation under subsection (1)(i) may declare an interest to be a relevant interest in land even though the interest may not be recognised at law or in equity as an interest in land.

- (4) If a person holds an interest in land on trust as guardian for a person under a legal disability and the interest would be a relevant interest if it were not for subsection (2)(b)—
- (a) the person under the legal disability is taken to be the person who holds a relevant interest in the land; and
 - (b) the guardian is taken not to hold the interest.

9 Meaning of *spouse*

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (6), a *spouse* is a person who is—
- (a) married; or
 - (b) a de facto partner.²
- (2) A person is a de facto partner of another person only if they are living together as a couple on a genuine domestic basis within the meaning of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 32DA, and, for at least 2 years, have so lived together as a couple.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if the commissioner is satisfied, when deciding an application for a first home owner grant, an applicant for the grant—
- (a) is married but is living apart from the person to whom the applicant is married; and
 - (b) they have no intention of again living together as a couple.
- (4) The person to whom the applicant is married must not be regarded as the applicant's spouse.
- (5) Subsection (6) applies if the commissioner is satisfied, when deciding an application for a first home owner grant, an applicant for the grant—
- (a) is living apart from the person who, under this section, would otherwise be the applicant's de facto partner; and

² See the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 32DA (Meaning of *de facto partner*).

- (b) they intend to again live together as a couple on a genuine domestic basis within the meaning of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 32DA.
- (6) The person must be regarded as the applicant's spouse.
- (7) This section applies despite the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 32DA(6).

Part 3 First home owner grants

Division 1 Entitlement to grant

10 When grant is payable

- (1) A first home owner grant is payable on an application under this Act if—
 - (a) the applicant or, if there are 2 or more of them, each of the applicants complies with the eligibility criteria; and
 - (b) the transaction for which the grant is sought—
 - (i) is an eligible transaction; and
 - (ii) has been completed.³
- (2) Despite subsection (1)(a), an applicant need not comply with the eligibility criteria to the extent the applicant is exempted from compliance under this Act.
- (3) Only 1 first home owner grant is payable for the same eligible transaction.

³ For authorisation of payment of the grant before the completion of the eligible transaction, see section 19(2).

Division 2 Eligibility criteria—applicants

11 Criterion 1—Applicant to be a natural person and at least 18 years of age

- (1) An applicant for a first home owner grant must be—
 - (a) a natural person; and
 - (b) at least 18 years of age at the commencement date for the eligible transaction.
- (2) The commissioner may exempt an applicant from the requirement in subsection (1)(b) if the commissioner is satisfied—
 - (a) the applicant will comply with criterion 5 as applying to the applicant under section 15; and
 - (b) the application does not form part of a scheme to circumvent limitations on, or requirements affecting, eligibility for or entitlement to a first home owner grant.

12 Criterion 2—Applicant to be Australian citizen or permanent resident

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), an applicant for a first home owner grant must be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident.
- (2) If an application is made by joint applicants and 1 of the applicants is an Australian citizen or a permanent resident, it is not necessary for the other or others to be Australian citizens or permanent residents.

13 Criterion 3—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have received an earlier grant

- (1) An applicant is ineligible if—
 - (a) the applicant or the applicant’s spouse has been a party to an earlier application under this Act or a corresponding law; and
 - (b) a grant was paid on the application.
- (2) However, an applicant is not ineligible if—

- (a) the grant was later paid back; and
- (b) the basis for the repayment of the grant was a failure to satisfy section 10(1); and
- (c) any penalty amount payable under section 47 was also paid in relation to the earlier application.

14 Criterion 4—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have had relevant interest in residential property

- (1) An applicant is ineligible if the applicant or applicant’s spouse has, before 1 July 2000, held—
 - (a) a relevant interest in residential property in Queensland; or
 - (b) an interest in residential property in another State that is a relevant interest under a corresponding law of that State.
- (2) However, the applicant is not ineligible if—
 - (a) the relevant interest is an interest as purchaser of an estate in fee simple in land under a contract mentioned in section 8(1)(f); and
 - (b) the contract was terminated within 1 year after the contract was entered into; and
 - (c) the applicant or applicant’s spouse did not acquire an estate in fee simple in the land.
- (3) For subsection (1), in deciding whether an applicant held a relevant interest, under this Act or a corresponding law, in residential property at a particular time, any deferment of the applicant’s right of occupation, because the property was subject to a lease, must be disregarded.
- (4) An applicant is ineligible if the applicant or the applicant’s spouse has, on or after 1 July 2000 and before the date on which the application is made, held an interest in property (other than the property to which the application relates) used at any time on or after 1 July 2000 as the residence of the applicant or the applicant’s spouse, being—
 - (a) a relevant interest in residential property in Queensland; or

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

- (b) an interest in residential property in another State that is a relevant interest under the corresponding law of that State.
- (5) However, for subsection (4), the applicant or the applicant's spouse is taken not to have used the property as the residence of the applicant or the applicant's spouse if—
 - (a) the property was the subject of an earlier application under this Act by the applicant; and
 - (b) a first home owner grant was paid under the earlier application; and
 - (c) because of a failure to satisfy criterion 5 as applying to the applicant under section 15 in relation to the earlier application, the applicant repaid the grant.

15 Criterion 5—Residence requirements

- (1) An applicant for a first home owner grant must occupy the home to which the application relates as the applicant's principal place of residence for a continuous period of at least 6 months.
- (2) However, if the commissioner is satisfied there are good reasons to do so, the commissioner may—
 - (a) approve a shorter period; or
 - (b) exempt the applicant from the requirement to comply with subsection (1).
- (3) The period of occupation required under subsection (1), or the shorter period approved under subsection (2)(a), must start within 1 year after completion of the eligible transaction or a longer period approved by the commissioner.
- (4) The commissioner may exempt an applicant from the residence requirement under subsection (3) if—
 - (a) the applicant is 1 of 2 or more joint applicants for a first home owner grant; and
 - (b) at least 1 of the applicants complies with the residence requirement; and

- (c) the commissioner is satisfied there are good reasons to exempt the applicant from the residence requirement.

Division 3 Application for grant

16 Application for grant

- (1) An application for a first home owner grant must be made to the commissioner or an agent of the commissioner.
- (2) The application must be—
 - (a) in the approved form; and
 - (b) supported by the information required by the commissioner.
- (3) The application may only be made within a period (the *application period*)—
 - (a) starting on the commencement date of the eligible transaction to which the application relates; and
 - (b) ending 1 year after the completion of the eligible transaction to which the application relates.
- (4) However, the commissioner may allow an application to be made before or after the application period.

17 All interested persons to join in application

- (1) All interested persons must be applicants.
- (2) For subsection (1), an interested person is a person who is, or will be, on completion of the eligible transaction to which the application relates, an owner of the relevant home, other than a person prescribed under a regulation.

18 Application on behalf of person under legal disability

- (1) An application may be made on behalf of a person under a legal disability by a guardian.
- (2) For deciding eligibility, the person under the legal disability must be regarded as the applicant.

Division 4 Decision on application

19 Commissioner to decide applications

- (1) If the commissioner is satisfied a first home owner grant is payable on an application, the commissioner must authorise the payment of the grant.
- (2) The commissioner may authorise the payment of the grant before the completion of the eligible transaction if the commissioner is satisfied it is appropriate in particular circumstances.

20 Amount of grant

The amount of a first home owner grant is the lesser of the following—

- (a) the consideration for the eligible transaction;
- (b) \$7000.

21 Payment of grant

- (1) A first home owner grant must be paid by electronic funds transfer, cheque or in any other way the commissioner considers appropriate.
- (2) A first home owner grant must be paid to—
 - (a) the applicant; or
 - (b) someone else to whom the applicant directs in writing the grant be paid.
- (3) If the applicant requests, the commissioner may apply the amount of a first home owner grant, or part of the amount, towards a liability for State taxes, fees or charges.

22 Payment in anticipation of compliance with residence requirements

- (1) The commissioner may authorise payment of a first home owner grant in anticipation of compliance with the residence

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

requirements if the commissioner is satisfied each applicant intends to comply with the residence requirements.

- (2) If a first home owner grant is paid in anticipation of compliance with the residence requirements, the payment is made on condition that, if the residence requirements are not complied with, the applicants must within 14 days after the relevant date—
 - (a) give written notice of that fact to the commissioner; and
 - (b) repay the amount of the grant.
- (3) For subsection (2), the relevant date is the earlier of the following—
 - (a) the end of the period allowed for compliance with the residence requirements;
 - (b) the date on which it first becomes apparent that the residence requirements will not be complied with during the period allowed for compliance.
- (4) For a joint application, each applicant is individually liable to comply with the requirements under subsection (2)(a) and (b) but compliance by any 1 or more of them must be regarded as compliance by both or all.
- (5) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a condition mentioned in subsection (2).

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

23 Conditions generally

- (1) The commissioner may authorise the payment of a first home owner grant on the reasonable conditions the commissioner considers appropriate.
- (2) A condition imposed by the commissioner, under this section or another provision of this Act, may require a person on whose application the first home owner grant is paid—
 - (a) to give notice of non-compliance with the condition within a period stated in the condition; and
 - (b) to repay the grant within a period stated in the condition.

- (3) For a joint application, each applicant is individually liable to comply with a requirement under subsection (2) but compliance by any 1 or more of them must be regarded as compliance by both or all.
- (4) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a condition imposed by the commissioner, under this section or another provision of this Act.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

24 Death of applicant

- (1) An application for a first home owner grant does not lapse because an applicant dies before the application is decided.
- (2) If an applicant dies before the application is decided, the following provisions apply—
 - (a) if the deceased was 1 of 2 or more applicants and 1 or more applicants survive—the application must be dealt with as if the surviving applicants were the sole applicants;
 - (b) if paragraph (a) does not apply—a first home owner grant, if payable on the application, must be paid to the deceased's personal representative.
- (3) Subsection (4) applies if—
 - (a) a deceased applicant for a first home owner grant had not, when the applicant died, complied with criterion 5, as applying to the applicant under section 15 immediately before the applicant's death; and
 - (b) the commissioner is satisfied the applicant intended to comply with the criterion.
- (4) The deceased applicant is taken to have complied with criterion 5.

25 Notice of decision

- (1) If the commissioner decides an application, or decides to vary or reverse an earlier decision on an application, the commissioner must give the applicant written notice of the decision.

- (2) If the decision authorises the payment of a first home owner grant without conditions, payment of the grant is sufficient notice of the decision.
- (3) If the decision is to refuse an application, or to vary or reverse an earlier decision on an application, the notice must state the following—
 - (a) the reasons for the decision;
 - (b) the person may, within 60 days after receiving the notice, object to the decision;
 - (c) how to object.⁴

Division 5 Special eligible transactions

25A Meaning of *new home* for div 5

- (1) A *new home* is a home that—
 - (a) has not been previously occupied or sold as a place of residence; or
 - (b) is a substantially renovated home.
- (2) For subsection (1)(b), a home is a substantially renovated home if—
 - (a) the home is the subject of a contract for the purchase of the home; and
 - (b) the sale of the home under the contract is, under the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cwlth), a taxable supply as a sale of new residential premises as defined under section 40-75(1)(b) of that Act; and
 - (c) the home, as renovated, has not been previously occupied or sold as a place of residence.

⁴ See part 5 (Objections and appeals).

25B Meaning of *special eligible transaction* for div 5

- (1) A *special eligible transaction* is an eligible transaction the commencement date for which is between 14 October 2008 and 30 June 2009, both dates inclusive, that is—
 - (a) a contract for the purchase of a home; or
 - (b) a comprehensive home building contract for a new home if—
 - (i) the building work starts within the prescribed start period or within the longer period the commissioner allows in particular circumstances; and
 - (ii) the contract states the building work must be completed within the prescribed building period or, if the contract does not state a completion date for the building work, it is completed—
 - (A) within the prescribed building period; or
 - (B) within the longer period the commissioner allows in particular circumstances; or
 - (c) the building of a new home by an owner builder if the eligible transaction is completed within the prescribed building period or within the longer period the commissioner allows in particular circumstances.
- (2) However, an eligible transaction mentioned in subsection (1)(a) that is a contract to purchase a new home on a proposed lot on an unregistered plan of subdivision of land is a special eligible transaction only if the contract states the building work must be completed before the prescribed completion date or, if the contract does not state a completion date for the building work, it is completed before the prescribed completion date.
- (3) Also, an eligible transaction that is a contract is not a special eligible transaction if the commissioner is satisfied the contract forms part of a scheme to circumvent limitations on, or requirements affecting, eligibility or entitlement to a first home owner grant for a special eligible transaction.
- (4) Unless satisfied to the contrary, the commissioner must presume the existence of a scheme mentioned in subsection

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

- (3) if the contract replaces a contract made before 14 October 2008 that is—
- (a) a contract to purchase the same or substantially similar home; or
 - (b) a comprehensive home building contract to build the same or a substantially similar home.
- (5) For this section, building work—
- (a) starts when laying the foundations for the home starts; and
 - (b) is completed when the building is ready for occupation as a home and any completion requirements prescribed under a regulation are complied with.
- (6) In this section—

prescribed building period, for building work, means the period starting on the date the work is started and ending 18 months after it is started.

prescribed completion date means 31 December 2010.

prescribed start period, for building work, means the period starting on the commencement date and ending 26 weeks after that date.

25C Amount of grant

- (1) Despite section 20, the amount of a first home owner grant for an eligible transaction that is a special eligible transaction for a new home is the lesser of the following—
- (a) the consideration for the transaction;
 - (b) \$21000.
- (2) Despite section 20, the amount of a first home owner grant for an eligible transaction that is a special eligible transaction for a home, other than a new home, is the lesser of the following—
- (a) the consideration for the transaction;
 - (b) \$14000.

Part 4 Authorised officers, investigations and enforcement

Division 1 Authorised officers

26 Appointment

- (1) The commissioner may appoint as an authorised officer—
 - (a) a public service employee; or
 - (b) an officer or employee of the authority responsible for the administration of a corresponding law.
- (2) The commissioner may appoint a person as an authorised officer only if the commissioner is satisfied the person has the necessary expertise or experience to be an authorised officer.

27 Limitation of authorised officer's powers

- (1) For this Act, an authorised officer has the powers given under this Act.
- (2) An authorised officer is subject to the directions of the commissioner in exercising the powers.
- (3) An authorised officer's powers may be limited—
 - (a) under a regulation; or
 - (b) by notice given by the commissioner to the authorised officer.

28 Authorised officer's appointment conditions

- (1) An authorised officer holds office on the conditions stated in the instrument of appointment.
- (2) An authorised officer—
 - (a) if the appointment provides for a term of appointment—ceases holding office at the end of the term; and

- (b) if the conditions of appointment provide—ceases holding office on ceasing to hold another office stated in the appointment conditions; and
- (c) may resign by signed notice given to the commissioner.

29 Authorised officer's identity card

- (1) The commissioner must give each authorised officer an identity card.
- (2) The identity card must—
 - (a) contain a recent photograph of the authorised officer; and
 - (b) be signed by the authorised officer; and
 - (c) identify the person as an authorised officer; and
 - (d) state an expiry date.
- (3) A person who ceases to be an authorised officer must return the identity card to the commissioner as soon as practicable, but within 21 days, after the person ceases to be an authorised officer, unless the person has a reasonable excuse for not returning it in the 21 days.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

- (4) This section does not prevent the giving of a single identity card to a person for this Act and other Acts.

30 Production or display of authorised officer's identity card

- (1) An authorised officer may exercise a power in relation to a person only if the authorised officer—
 - (a) first produces the authorised officer's identity card for the person's inspection; or
 - (b) has the authorised officer's identity card displayed so it is clearly visible to the person.
- (2) However, if for any reason it is not practicable to comply with subsection (1) before exercising the power, the authorised officer must produce the identity card as soon as it is practicable.

Division 2 Investigations

Subdivision 1 Cross-border investigations

31 Commissioner may carry out investigations under corresponding laws

If asked by an authority responsible for administering a corresponding law, the commissioner may carry out an authorised investigation for the corresponding law.

Subdivision 2 General powers on investigations

32 Powers on investigation

- (1) For carrying out an authorised investigation, the commissioner may, by written notice, require a person to do one or more of the following—
 - (a) give the commissioner written information stated in the notice;
 - (b) attend at a stated time and place before the commissioner, or a stated authorised officer, to answer questions relevant to the investigation;
 - (c) produce a document relevant to the investigation to the commissioner at a reasonable stated time and place.
- (2) The commissioner may require information given, or to be given, under this section be verified on oath or by statutory declaration.
- (3) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a requirement under this section.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

- (4) A person who, having attended before the commissioner or officer in response to a notice under subsection (1)(b), must not fail to answer a question relevant to the investigation unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

- (5) It is a reasonable excuse for a person to fail to comply with a requirement under subsection (3) to give information or produce a document or to answer a question under subsection (4) if complying with the requirement or answering the question might tend to incriminate the person.

Subdivision 3 Entry of places

33 Authorised officer's power to enter places

- (1) An authorised officer may enter a place if—
- (a) its occupier consents to the entry; or
 - (b) it is a public place and the entry is made when it is open to the public; or
 - (c) it is a place where a business is conducted and the entry is made when—
 - (i) the place is open for the conduct of business; or
 - (ii) is otherwise open for entry; or
 - (d) the entry is authorised by warrant.
- (2) For the purpose of asking the occupier of a place for consent to enter, an authorised officer may, without the occupier's consent or a warrant—
- (a) enter land around premises at the place to an extent that is reasonable to contact the occupier; or
 - (b) enter part of the place the authorised officer reasonably considers members of the public ordinarily are allowed to enter when they wish to contact the occupier.
- (3) For subsection (1)(c), a place of business does not include a part of the place where the person resides.

34 Entry with consent

- (1) This section applies if an authorised officer intends to ask an occupier of a place to consent to the authorised officer or another authorised officer entering the place under section 33(1)(a).

- (2) Before asking for the consent, the authorised officer must tell the occupier—
 - (a) the purpose of the entry; and
 - (b) that the occupier is not required to consent.
- (3) If the consent is given, the authorised officer may ask the occupier to sign an acknowledgment of the consent.
- (4) The acknowledgment must state—
 - (a) the occupier has been told—
 - (i) the purpose of the entry; and
 - (ii) that the occupier is not required to consent; and
 - (b) the purpose of the entry; and
 - (c) the occupier gives the authorised officer consent to enter the place and exercise powers under this division; and
 - (d) the time and date the consent was given.
- (5) If the occupier signs the acknowledgment, the authorised officer must immediately give a copy to the occupier.
- (6) A court must find the occupier did not consent to an authorised officer entering the place under this subdivision if—
 - (a) an issue arises in a proceeding before the court whether the occupier of the place consented to the entry; and
 - (b) an acknowledgment is not produced in evidence for the entry; and
 - (c) it is not proved by the person relying on the lawfulness of the entry that the occupier consented to the entry.

35 Application for warrant

- (1) An authorised officer may apply to a magistrate for a warrant for a place.
- (2) The application must be sworn and state the grounds on which the warrant is sought.
- (3) The magistrate may refuse to consider the application until the authorised officer gives the magistrate all the information the

magistrate requires about the application in the way the magistrate requires.

Example—

The magistrate may require additional information supporting the application to be given by statutory declaration.

36 Issue of warrant

- (1) The magistrate may issue a warrant only if the magistrate is satisfied there are reasonable grounds for suspecting—
 - (a) there is a particular thing or activity (the *evidence*) that may provide evidence of an offence against this Act; and
 - (b) the evidence is at the place, or within the next 7 days, may be at the place.
- (2) The warrant must state the following—
 - (a) the authorised officer may, with necessary and reasonable help and force—
 - (i) enter the place and any other place necessary for entry; and
 - (ii) exercise the authorised officer's powers under this division;
 - (b) the offence for which the warrant is sought;
 - (c) the hours of the day or night when the place may be entered;
 - (d) the date, within 14 days after the warrant's issue, the warrant ends;
 - (e) the purpose for which the warrant is issued.

37 Special warrants

- (1) An authorised officer may apply for a warrant (a *special warrant*) by phone, fax, radio or another form of communication if the authorised officer considers it necessary because of—
 - (a) urgent circumstances; or

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

- (b) other special circumstances, including, for example, the authorised officer's remote location.
- (2) Before applying for the special warrant, the authorised officer must prepare an application stating the grounds on which the warrant is sought.
- (3) The authorised officer may apply for the warrant before the application is sworn.
- (4) After issuing the special warrant, the magistrate must immediately fax a copy to the authorised officer if it is reasonably practicable to fax the copy.
- (5) If it is not reasonably practicable to fax a copy to the authorised officer—
 - (a) the magistrate must tell the authorised officer—
 - (i) what the terms of the warrant are; and
 - (ii) the date and time the warrant is issued; and
 - (b) the authorised officer must complete a form of warrant (a *warrant form*) and write on it—
 - (i) the magistrate's name; and
 - (ii) the date and time the magistrate issued the warrant; and
 - (iii) the terms of the special warrant.
- (6) The facsimile warrant, or the warrant form properly completed by the authorised officer, authorises the entry and the exercise of the other powers stated in the warrant issued by the magistrate.
- (7) The authorised officer must, at the first reasonable opportunity, send to the magistrate—
 - (a) the sworn application; and
 - (b) if the authorised officer completed a warrant form—the completed warrant form.
- (8) On receiving the documents, the magistrate must attach them to the warrant.
- (9) A court must find the exercise of the power by an authorised officer was not authorised by a special warrant if—

- (a) an issue arises in a proceeding before the court whether the exercise of the power was authorised by a special warrant; and
- (b) the warrant is not produced in evidence; and
- (c) it is not proved by the person relying on the lawfulness of the entry that the authorised officer obtained the warrant.

38 Warrants—procedure before entry

- (1) This section applies if an authorised officer named in a warrant issued under this subdivision for a place is intending to enter the place under the warrant.
- (2) Before entering the place, the authorised officer must do or make a reasonable attempt to do the following things—
 - (a) identify himself or herself, and anyone else helping the authorised officer, to a person present at the place who is an occupier of the place by producing the authorised officer's identity card;
 - (b) give the person a copy of the warrant or, if the entry is authorised by a facsimile warrant or warrant form mentioned in section 37(6), a copy of the facsimile warrant or warrant form;
 - (c) tell the person the authorised officer is permitted by the warrant to enter the place;
 - (d) give the person an opportunity to allow the authorised officer immediate entry to the place without using force.
- (3) However, the authorised officer need not comply with subsection (2) if the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that immediate entry to the place is required to ensure the effective execution of the warrant is not frustrated.

Subdivision 4 Powers of authorised officers on entry to places

39 General powers for places

- (1) An authorised officer who enters a place under subdivision 3 may exercise any of the following powers—
 - (a) search any part of the place;
 - (b) inspect, examine, photograph or film a document or anything in the place;
 - (c) take extracts from, and make copies of, any document in the place;
 - (d) take into the place any equipment and materials the authorised officer reasonably requires for exercising a power under this division;
 - (e) require a person in the place to—
 - (i) give the authorised officer reasonable help to exercise the powers mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d); or
 - (ii) answer questions relevant to the investigation.
- (2) When making a requirement mentioned in subsection (1)(e), the authorised officer must warn the person it is an offence to fail to comply with the requirement unless the person has a reasonable excuse.
- (3) A person required to give reasonable help under subsection (1)(e)(i) or answer a question under subsection (1)(e)(ii) must comply with the requirement unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.
- (4) If a person is required under subsection (1)(e)(i) to give reasonable help by answering a question or producing a document, or under subsection (1)(e)(ii) to answer a question, it is a reasonable excuse if complying with the requirement might tend to incriminate the person.

Subdivision 5 **General enforcement matters**

40 Notice of damage

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) an authorised officer damages property when exercising or purporting to exercise a power under this division; or
 - (b) a person (the *other person*) acting under the direction of an authorised officer damages property.
- (2) The authorised officer must promptly give written notice of particulars of the damage to the person who appears to the authorised officer to be the owner of the property.
- (3) If the authorised officer believes the damage was caused by a latent defect in the property or circumstances beyond the control of the authorised officer, contractor or other person, the authorised officer may state it in the notice.
- (4) If, for any reason, it is impracticable to comply with subsection (2), the authorised officer must leave the notice in a conspicuous position and in a reasonably secure way where the damage happened.
- (5) This section does not apply to damage the authorised officer reasonably believes is trivial.
- (6) In subsection (2)—

owner, of property, includes the person in possession or control of it.

41 Compensation

- (1) A person may claim from the commissioner the cost of repairing or replacing property damaged because of the exercise or purported exercise of a power under this division.
- (2) The cost may be claimed and ordered to be paid in a proceeding—
 - (a) brought in a court with jurisdiction for the recovery of the amount claimed; or

- (b) for an offence against this Act brought against the person claiming the amount.
- (3) A court may order an amount be paid only if it is satisfied it is just to make the order in the circumstances of the particular case.
- (4) A regulation may prescribe matters that may, or must, be taken into account by the court when considering whether it is just to make the order.

42 False or misleading documents

- (1) A person must not give to the commissioner or an authorised officer a document containing information the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—70 penalty units.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who, when giving the document—
 - (a) tells the commissioner or officer, to the best of the person’s ability, how it is false or misleading; and
 - (b) if the person has, or can reasonably get, the correct information—gives the correct information to the commissioner or officer.
- (3) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), it is enough for a charge to state that the document was, without specifying which, ‘false or misleading’.

43 False or misleading statements

- (1) A person must not state anything to the commissioner or an authorised officer the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Maximum penalty—70 penalty units.

- (2) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1), it is enough for a charge to state that the statement was, without specifying which, ‘false or misleading’.

44 Obstruction of authorised officers

- (1) A person must not obstruct an authorised officer in the exercise of a power, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

- (2) If a person has obstructed an authorised officer and the authorised officer decides to proceed with the exercise of the power, the authorised officer must warn the person that—
- (a) it is an offence to obstruct the authorised officer, unless the person has a reasonable excuse; and
 - (b) the authorised officer considers the person's conduct is an obstruction.

45 Impersonation of authorised officer

A person must not pretend to be an authorised officer.

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

46 Access to particular records without fee

For carrying out an authorised investigation, the commissioner may, without payment of a fee, inspect and take copies of any record relevant to the investigation that is kept by a public sector unit or local government.

Division 3 Repayments and penalties**47 Commissioner may require repayment and impose penalty**

- (1) The commissioner may, by written notice, require an applicant or former applicant for a first home owner grant to repay an amount paid on the application if the amount was paid in error (the *error amount*).
- (2) If the error amount was paid because of a contravention of section 42 or 43 in relation to the application for the grant, the commissioner may, by written notice, impose a penalty of not more than the error amount (a *penalty amount*).

- (3) If an applicant or former applicant for a first home owner grant fails to make a repayment required under subsection (1) or the conditions of the grant, the commissioner may, by written notice impose a penalty of not more than the error amount (also a *penalty amount*).
- (4) If the error amount was paid to a third party, the commissioner, may by written notice, require the third party to repay the amount to the commissioner.
- (5) A notice under this section must state the following—
 - (a) the reasons for the decision to require the payment;
 - (b) the person may, within 60 days after receiving the notice, object to the decision;
 - (c) how to object.

48 Recovery of amount paid in error etc.

- (1) This section applies to the following amounts—
 - (a) an amount an applicant or former applicant for a first home owner grant is required to repay under the conditions of the grant or under a requirement under this Act;
 - (b) a penalty amount imposed on an applicant or former applicant for a first home owner grant under section 47(2) or (3);
 - (c) an amount a third party is required, under section 47(4), to pay to commissioner.
- (2) The liability arising from a requirement to pay, or repay, an amount to which this section applies is, if the requirement attaches to 2 or more persons, joint and several.
- (3) An amount to which this section applies is a debt payable to the commissioner and may be recovered in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (4) The commissioner may enter into an arrangement for payment of a liability outstanding under this section by instalments.
- (5) The arrangement may include provision for the payment of interest.

49 Registering charge over land

- (1) This section applies if an applicant or former applicant who is liable to pay an amount to which section 48 applies has an interest in the land on which the home, for which the first home owner grant was sought, is fixed.
- (2) The liability is a charge on the applicant's interest in the land.
- (3) The registrar must register the charge over the land if the commissioner lodges with the registrar—
 - (a) a request to register the charge in the appropriate form over the land; and
 - (b) a certificate stating that—
 - (i) the amount stated in the certificate is owing in relation to the charge over the land; and
 - (ii) there is a charge over the land under this section.
- (4) The commissioner must, as soon as practicable after payment of the amount, lodge with the registrar—
 - (a) a request to release the charge in the appropriate form; and
 - (b) a certificate stating that the amount owing in relation to the charge over the land has been paid.
- (5) The registrar must register the release of the charge over the land.

50 Effect of writing off liability

If all or part of an applicant's liability under section 48, including the applicant's liability to pay court ordered costs, is written off under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*, section 106, the writing off does not extinguish the applicant's liability or prevent a later proceeding against the applicant to recover the amount of the liability.

51 Penalty amounts to be alternative to prosecution

- (1) This section applies if a penalty amount, including a part of a penalty amount, becomes payable under section 47 by a person because of an act or omission of the person.

- (2) If a proceeding is started against the person for an offence against a provision of this Act relating to the act or omission, and the penalty amount has not been paid to the commissioner, the penalty amount is payable only if the commissioner withdraws the proceeding.
- (3) If the penalty amount has been paid to the commissioner, but a proceeding is started against the person for an offence against a provision of this Act arising out of the act or omission, the penalty amount must be refunded by the commissioner.
- (4) Despite subsection (3), if the commissioner withdraws the proceeding for the offence, the person again becomes liable to pay the penalty amount.

51A Court may order repayment etc.

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) a first home owner grant is paid to a person; and
 - (b) the person is convicted by a court for a contravention of section 22(5), 22A(2), 23(4), 42(1) or 43(1) in relation to the grant.
- (2) The court may order the person to repay the grant.
- (3) Also, the court may order the person to pay the commissioner twice the grant amount if it is satisfied the circumstances of the contravention form part of a scheme to circumvent limitations on, or requirements affecting, eligibility or entitlement to a first home owner grant.
- (4) This section does not limit the court's powers under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* or any other law.

Division 4 Legal proceedings

52 Statements in complaint

In a complaint starting a proceeding, a statement that the matter of the complaint came to the complainant's knowledge on a stated day is evidence of the matter.

53 Evidentiary certificates

A certificate purporting to be signed by the commissioner stating any of the following matters is evidence of the matter—

- (a) on a stated day—
 - (i) a stated person was liable to pay, or paid, a stated amount; or
 - (ii) a stated person made, gave or executed a stated document; or
 - (iii) a stated document was given to a stated person in a stated way; or
 - (iv) the commissioner had not received a stated document or information;
- (b) a stated document is a copy of, or part of, another document.

54 Summary proceedings for offences

A proceeding for an offence against this Act must be taken in a summary way under the *Justices Act 1886*.

55 When proceedings must start

A proceeding for an offence against this Act must start—

- (a) within 1 year after the commission of the offence; or
- (b) within 1 year after the offence comes to the complainant's knowledge, but within 2 years after the commission of the offence.

Part 5 Objections and appeals

Division 1 Objections

56 Lodging objection

- (1) An applicant or former applicant for a first home owner grant who is dissatisfied with the commissioner's decision on an application for a first home owner grant or, under section 47, to require payment of an amount, may lodge a written objection with the commissioner.
- (2) The grounds of objection must be stated fully and in detail in the notice.
- (3) The objection must be lodged within 60 days after the objector receives notice of the decision.
- (4) If the commissioner is satisfied an objector has a reasonable excuse for failing to lodge an objection within the 60 day period, the commissioner may extend the time for lodging the objection.

57 Deciding objection

- (1) After considering the objection, the commissioner may—
 - (a) confirm the decision; or
 - (b) set aside the decision and substitute another decision.
- (2) If the decision the subject of the objection was made by a delegate of the commissioner, the delegate must not decide the objection.

58 Notice of decision

- (1) The commissioner must give written notice to the objector of the commissioner's decision on the objection.
- (2) The notice must state the following—
 - (a) the reasons for the decision;

- (b) the objector may, within 60 days after receiving the notice, appeal against the decision;
- (c) how to appeal.

Division 2 Appeals

59 Right of appeal

An objector who is dissatisfied with the commissioner's decision on the objection, may appeal against the decision.

60 How to start appeal

- (1) The appeal is started by—
 - (a) filing notice of appeal with the clerk of the court of the Magistrates Court nearest the place where the objection was lodged; and
 - (b) giving a copy of the notice of appeal to the commissioner.
- (2) The notice of appeal must be filed within 60 days after the appellant receives notice of the commissioner's decision on the objection.
- (3) The court may at any time extend the time for filing the notice of appeal.
- (4) The notice of appeal must state fully the grounds of the appeal and the facts relied on.

61 Grounds of appeal

The grounds of the appeal are limited to the grounds of objection unless the Magistrates Court otherwise orders.

62 Hearing procedures

- (1) In deciding the appeal, the Magistrates Court—
 - (a) is not bound by the rules of evidence; and
 - (b) must comply with natural justice; and

- (c) may hear the appeal in court or chambers.
- (2) An appeal is by way of rehearing.

63 Decision on appeal

- (1) On the appeal, the Magistrates Court may—
 - (a) confirm the decision; or
 - (b) set aside the decision and substitute another decision; or
 - (c) set aside the decision and return the issue to the commissioner with the directions the court considers appropriate.
- (2) If the court substitutes another decision, the substituted decision is taken for this Act, other than this part, to be the commissioner's decision.

64 Appeals to District Court

An appeal lies to the District Court from a decision of the Magistrates Court, but only on a question of law.

Part 6 Miscellaneous provisions

65 Delegations

- (1) The commissioner may delegate the commissioner's powers under this Act to an appropriately qualified officer or employee of the department.
- (2) In addition, the commissioner may delegate the commissioner's powers under part 4 to the authority responsible for administering a corresponding law or an appropriately qualified officer or employee of the authority.

66 Administration agreements

- (1) The commissioner may, on behalf of the State, enter into an agreement with a financial institution or other person for

performing functions related to administering the scheme for payment of first home owner grants established under this Act.

- (2) The commissioner may, at any time, revoke the agreement.

67 Protection from liability

- (1) An official is not civilly liable for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under this Act.
- (2) If subsection (1) prevents a civil liability attaching to an official, the liability attaches instead to the State.
- (3) In this section—
official means—
- (a) the commissioner; or
 - (b) an authorised officer; or
 - (c) an officer or employee of the department to whom the commissioner has, under section 65, delegated powers.

68 Offence to disclose confidential information

- (1) This section applies to a person who—
- (a) is or has been engaged in the administration of this Act, including an employee of an agent of the commissioner; or
 - (b) has obtained access to confidential information, whether directly or indirectly, from a person mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (2) The person must not disclose confidential information acquired by the person to anyone else other than under subsection (3) or (4).
- Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (3) The person may disclose confidential information—
- (a) at the request, or with the consent of, the person to whom the information relates or someone else acting on the person's behalf; or

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

- (b) if the disclosure is expressly permitted or required under another Act; or
 - (c) in connection with the administration or enforcement of—
 - (i) this Act or a corresponding law; or
 - (ii) a taxation law; or
 - (d) for a legal proceeding under this Act.
- (4) Also, if the commissioner becomes aware, from information obtained or held by the commissioner in the course of administering this Act, of a particular offence or suspected offence (whether against this Act or another law), the commissioner may disclose confidential information about the offence or suspected offence to a member of the Queensland Police Service or the Australian Federal Police for an investigation or proceeding (including for starting an investigation or proceeding).
- (5) For a proceeding other than a legal proceeding under this Act, the person can not be compelled to disclose to a court or to a party—
- (a) confidential information; or
 - (b) whether or not the person has received particular confidential information; or
 - (c) the identity of the source of particular confidential information.
- (6) If, under subsection (3)(c), confidential information is disclosed to another person in connection with the administration or enforcement of a law, the person must not disclose the information to anyone else other than in connection with that purpose.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

- (7) In this section—

confidential information means information held by the commissioner, including information given under section 16, that relates to a particular application for a first home owner grant.

69 Use of information obtained under taxation laws

The commissioner may use information obtained in the administration or enforcement of a taxation law for the administration or enforcement of this Act.

69A Disqualifying arrangements

- (1) A disqualifying arrangement exists in relation to an application for a first home owner grant if—
 - (a) a related person of an applicant for the application provides or will provide financial help to the applicant, directly or indirectly, to help the applicant enter into the eligible transaction to which the application relates; and
 - (b) the related person has used, or will use, the home the subject of the eligible transaction, frequently or otherwise to a significant extent, in addition to any use of the home by the applicant; and
 - (c) the related person would not be eligible for the grant had the related person entered into the eligible transaction; and
 - (d) the commissioner is not satisfied that in the circumstances there are genuine family reasons for the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b).
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1)(a), any of the following may be taken to be financial help provided by the related person—
 - (a) the related person makes a gift of money or property, whether or not the gift is enough to meet all of the applicant's obligations under the eligible transaction;
 - (b) the related person makes a contribution towards the cost of—
 - (i) the applicant complying with his or her obligations under the eligible transaction; or
 - (ii) maintaining the home the subject of the eligible transaction;
 - (c) the related person makes a loan repayment for the applicant in relation to the eligible transaction;

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

- (d) the related person forgives loan repayments otherwise owed by the applicant to the related person.
- (3) A disqualifying arrangement exists in relation to an application for a first home owner grant if the commissioner is satisfied—
- (a) there is an arrangement the sole or main purpose of which is to obtain a first home owner grant, rather than acquiring a home; and
 - (b) the application is made for the purposes of the arrangement.
- (4) For subsection (3), the commissioner must have regard to the following—
- (a) the way the eligible transaction was entered into or carried out;
 - (b) the nature of the connection, whether business, family or another connection, between the parties to the eligible transaction;
 - (c) the amount of consideration payable under the eligible transaction;
 - (d) the value of the home the subject of the eligible transaction;
 - (e) the living and family arrangements of the applicant and any related person;
 - (f) the financial circumstances of the applicant;
 - (g) the source of funds used to complete the eligible transaction and meet the costs of owning and maintaining the home the subject of the eligible transaction.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not limit the matters to which the commissioner may or ought to have regard for subsection (3).
- (6) If a disqualifying arrangement exists in relation to an application for a first home owner grant the commissioner may—
- (a) if the application has not yet been approved—refuse the application; or

- (b) if the application was approved but the grant has not yet been paid—reverse the decision on the application and refuse to pay the grant; or
 - (c) if the grant has already been paid—reverse the decision on the application and act under section 47 to recover the grant as an error amount, and to recover any penalty amount imposed under the section.
- (7) The commissioner must give the applicant reasons for taking action under this section.
- (8) In this section—
- related person*, of an applicant, means—
- (a) a parent, child, grandparent, sibling, uncle or aunt of the applicant; or
 - (b) the spouse of any person mentioned in paragraph (a).

70 Approved forms

- (1) The commissioner may approve forms for use under this Act.
- (2) The approved form of application for a first home owner grant, or part of the form, may be required to be completed or signed by the spouse of the applicant.

71 Regulation-making power

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.
- (2) A regulation may provide for a maximum penalty of not more than 20 penalty units for a contravention of a regulation.

Part 7 **Transitional provisions for First Home Owner Grant Amendment Act 2003**

72 **Continuing operation of Act for particular eligible transactions**

(1) This Act continues to apply in relation to a relevant application as if this Act had not been amended by the relevant provisions of the amending Act.

(2) In this section—

amending Act means the *First Home Owner Grant Amendment Act 2003*.

relevant application means an application for a first home owner grant, if the commencement date for the eligible transaction to which the application relates is a date earlier than 1 January 2004.

relevant provisions, of the amending Act, means the provisions of the amending Act commencing on the day this section commences, other than section 5.

74 **Transitional provision for particular approved form**

(1) This section applies to the first publication in the gazette, on or after the commencement of this section, of a notice under the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, section 58(6)(a) relating to the approval or availability of a relevant form.

(2) The publication is taken to have been effective on and from 14 October 2008.

(3) In this section—

relevant form means a form for making an application for a first home owner grant for a special eligible transaction.

special eligible transaction see section 25B.

Schedule Dictionary

section 3

administration agreement means an agreement made under section 66.

agent, of the commissioner for an application for a first home owner grant, means a financial institution or other person with whom the commissioner has made an administration agreement.

appropriately qualified, for a person to whom a power under this Act may be delegated, includes having the qualifications, experience or standing appropriate to exercise the power.

Example of 'standing'—

A person's classification level in the public service.

approved form means a form approved under section 70.

Australian citizen means an Australian citizen under the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* (Cwth), part 3.

authorised investigation means an investigation to decide—

- (a) whether an application under this Act or a corresponding law for a first home owner grant has been properly made; or
- (b) whether an objection to a decision made under this Act or a corresponding law should be upheld; or
- (c) whether an applicant to whom, or for whose benefit, a first home owner grant has been paid under this Act or a corresponding law was eligible for the grant; or
- (d) whether a condition on which a first home owner grant has been paid under this Act or a corresponding law has been complied with; or
- (e) another matter reasonably related to the administration or enforcement of this Act or a corresponding law.

authorised officer means a person appointed as an authorised officer under section 26.

Schedule (continued)

building includes part of a building.

commencement date, for an eligible transaction, means—

- (a) for a contract for the purchase of a home or to have a home built—the date when the contract is made; or
- (b) for the building of a home by an owner builder—
 - (i) the date when laying the foundations for the home starts; or
 - (ii) another date the commissioner considers appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

commissioner means the Commissioner of State Revenue appointed under the *Taxation Administration Act 2001*.

completed, for an eligible transaction, means—

- (a) for a contract for the purchase of a home—
 - (i) when the purchaser becomes entitled to possession of the home under the contract; and
 - (ii) if the purchaser is to obtain a registered title to the land on which the home is built—the purchaser's title is registered; or
- (b) for a contract to have a home built—when the building is ready for occupation as a home and any prescribed completion requirements are complied with; or
- (c) for the building of a home by an owner builder—when the building is ready for occupation as a home and any prescribed completion requirements are complied with.

comprehensive home building contract means a contract under which a builder undertakes to build a home from the start of building work to the point where the home is ready for occupation and, if for any reason, the work to be carried out under the contract is not completed, includes any further contract under which the work is to be completed.

consideration, for an eligible transaction, means—

- (a) for a contract for the purchase of a home—the consideration for the purchase; or

Schedule (continued)

- (b) for a contract to have a home built—the total consideration payable for the building work; or
- (c) for the building of a home by an owner builder—the actual costs to the owner of carrying out the work, excluding any allowance for the owner builder's own labour.

corresponding law means an Act of another State corresponding to this Act.

eligibility criteria see section 4.

eligible transaction see section 5.

first home owner grant means a grant payable under part 3.

guardian, of a person under a legal disability, includes a trustee who holds property on trust for the person under an instrument of trust or by order or direction of a court or tribunal.

home see section 6.

home owner see section 7.

new home, for part 3, division 5, see section 25A(1).

obstruct includes hinder and attempt to obstruct or hinder.

occupier, of a place, includes the person apparently in charge of the place.

option, to purchase, includes a right of pre-emption and right of first refusal.

owner means—

- (a) for a home—see section 7; or
- (b) for land—a person who has a relevant interest in the land.

owner builder means an owner of land who builds a home, or has a home built, on the land without entering into a comprehensive home building contract.

penalty amount see section 47(2) and (3).

permanent resident means—

Schedule (continued)

- (a) the holder of a permanent visa as defined by the *Migration Act 1958* (Cwth), section 30(1); or
- (b) a New Zealand citizen who is the holder of a special category visa as defined by the *Migration Act 1958* (Cwth), section 32.

place includes the following—

- (a) vacant land;
- (b) premises;
- (c) a vehicle;
- (d) a boat;
- (e) an aircraft.

premises includes the following—

- (a) a building or structure of any kind;
- (b) the land on which a building or structure is situated.

prescribed completion requirements, for completion of an eligible transaction, means requirements prescribed under a regulation.

public place means a place the public is entitled to use or is open to, or used by, the public, whether or not on payment of an admission fee.

registrar means the registrar of titles or another person responsible for keeping a register for dealings in land.

relevant interest see section 8.

residence requirements means the following requirements—

- (a) the requirement—
 - (i) under section 15(1), that an applicant for a first home owner grant must occupy the home to which the application relates as the applicant's principal place of residence for a continuous period of at least 6 months; or
 - (ii) under section 15(1) and (2)(a), that an applicant for a first home owner grant must occupy the home to

Schedule (continued)

which the application relates as the applicant's principal place of residence for a shorter period approved by the commissioner;

- (b) the requirement under section 15(3) that the period of occupation required under section 15(1), or section 15(1) and (2)(a), must start within 1 year after completion of the eligible transaction or a longer period approved by the commissioner.

residential property means land in Australia that, at a particular time, has a building on it that is lawfully occupied as a place of residence or is suitable for occupation as a place of residence.

special eligible transaction, for part 3, division 5, see section 25B(1).

spouse see section 9.

structure includes part of a structure.

taxation law means—

- (a) a law of the Commonwealth or a State about the assessment or imposition of a tax, fee, duty or other impost; or
- (b) the *Fuel Subsidy Act 1997*.

Endnotes

1 Index to endnotes

	Page
2 Date to which amendments incorporated	51
3 Key	52
4 Table of reprints	52
5 Tables in earlier reprints	53
6 List of legislation	53
7 List of annotations	54
8 List of forms notified or published in the gazette	55
9 Information about retrospectivity	56

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 11 December 2008. Future amendments of the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 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

Key	Explanation	Key	Explanation
AIA	= Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	= previously
amd	= amended	proc	= proclamation
amdt	= amendment	prov	= provision
ch	= chapter	pt	= part
def	= definition	pubd	= published
div	= division	R[X]	= Reprint No. [X]
exp	= expires/expired	RA	= Reprints Act 1992
gaz	= gazette	reloc	= relocated
hdg	= heading	renum	= renumbered
ins	= inserted	rep	= repealed
lap	= lapsed	(retro)	= retrospectively
notfd	= notified	rv	= revised edition
num	= numbered	s	= section
o in c	= order in council	sch	= schedule
om	= omitted	sdiv	= subdivision
orig	= original	SIA	= Statutory Instruments Act 1992
p	= page	SIR	= Statutory Instruments Regulation 2002
para	= paragraph	SL	= subordinate legislation
prec	= preceding	sub	= substituted
pres	= present	unnum	= unnumbered
prev	= previous		

4 Table of reprints

Reprints are issued for both future and past effective dates. For the most up-to-date table of reprints, see the reprint with the latest effective date.

If a reprint number includes a letter of the alphabet, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.

Reprint No.	Amendments to	Effective	Reprint date
1	2000 Act No. 20	1 July 2000	3 July 2000
1A	2001 Act No. 21	9 March 2001	25 May 2001
1B rv	2001 Act No. 72	1 March 2002	1 March 2002
1C rv	2002 Act No. 17	17 May 2002	30 May 2002

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Effective	Notes
1D rv	2002 Act No. 74	1 April 2003	
1E	2003 Act No. 90	18 November 2003	
1F	2003 Act No. 90	1 January 2004	R1F withdrawn, see R2
2	—	1 January 2004	
2A	2008 Act No. 75	14 October 2008	
2B	2008 Act No. 75	11 December 2008	

5 Tables in earlier reprints

Name of table	Reprint No.
Corrected minor errors	1

6 List of legislation

First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 No. 14

date of assent 26 May 2000

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 July 2000 (see s 2)

amending legislation—

GST and Related Matters Act 2000 No. 20 ss 1, 2(4), 29 sch 3

date of assent 23 June 2000

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 July 2000 (see s 2(4))

First Home Owner Grant and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2001 No. 21 pts 1–2 sch

date of assent 17 May 2001

commenced on 9 March 2001 (see s 2)

Taxation Administration Act 2001 No. 72 ss 1–2, 164 sch 1

date of assent 13 November 2001

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 March 2002 (2002 SL No. 12)

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2002 No. 17 ss 1, 2(3), (4), (8), pt 4

date of assent 17 May 2002

ss 12, 14, 17–18 commenced 9 October 2001 (see s 2(3))

ss 15–16 commenced 1 January 2002 (see s 2(4))

remaining provisions commenced on date of assent (see s 2(8))

Discrimination Law Amendment Act 2002 No. 74 ss 1–2, 90 sch

date of assent 13 December 2002

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

s 90 commenced 31 March 2003 (2003 SL No. 51)

remaining provisions commenced 1 April 2003 (2003 SL No. 51)

First Home Owner Grant Amendment Act 2003 No. 90

date of assent 18 November 2003

ss 1–2, 3–4, 10 commenced on date of assent (see s 2(1))

remaining provisions commenced 1 January 2004 (see s 2(2))

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2008 No. 75 ss 1, 2(8)–(9), pt 4

date of assent 11 December 2008

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

ss 49, 55 (to the extent it ins defs “new home”, “special eligible transaction”) commenced 14 October 2008 (see s 2(8))

ss 45, 50–52, 54 (to the extent it ins s 74) commenced on date of assent remaining provisions commence 1 July 2009 (see s 2(9))

7 List of annotations

Meaning of “spouse”

s 9 amd 2002 No. 17 s 13; 2002 No. 74 s 90 sch

PART 3—FIRST HOME OWNER GRANTS

Criterion 1—Applicant to be a natural person and at least 18 years of age

s 11 sub 2003 No. 90 s 4

Criterion 3—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have received an earlier grant

s 13 amd 2003 No. 90 s 5

Criterion 4—Applicant or applicant’s spouse must not have had relevant interest in residential property

s 14 amd 2003 No. 90 s 6

Criterion 5—Residence requirement

prov hdg amd 2003 No. 90 s 7(1)

s 15 amd 2003 No. 90 s 7(2)–(4)

Payment in anticipation of compliance with residence requirements

prov hdg amd 2003 No. 90 s 8

s 22 amd 2003 No. 90 s 8

Death of applicant

s 24 amd 2003 No. 90 s 9

Division 5—Special eligible transactions

div hdg ins 2001 No. 21 s 4 (retro)

exp 31 December 2001 (see s 25D)

revived as from 9 October 2001 (2002 No. 17 s 17 (retro))

sub 2008 No. 75 s 49 (retro)

Meaning of “new home” for div 5

s 25A ins 2001 No. 21 s 4 (retro)

exp 31 December 2001 (see s 25D)

revived as from 9 October 2001 (2002 No. 17 s 17 (retro))

sub 2008 No. 75 s 49 (retro)

Meaning of “special eligible transaction” for div 5

s 25B ins 2001 No. 21 s 4 (retro)

exp 31 December 2001 (see s 25D)

revived as from 9 October 2001 (2002 No. 17 s 17 (retro))

amd 2002 No. 17 ss 14–15 (retro)

sub 2008 No. 75 s 49 (retro)

Amount of grant

s 25C ins 2001 No. 21 s 4 (retro)

exp 31 December 2001 (see s 25D)
 revived as from 9 October 2001 (2002 No. 17 s 17 (retro))
 amd 2002 No. 17 s 16 (retro)
 sub 2008 No. 75 s 49 (retro)

Expiry of div 5

s 25D ins 2001 No. 21 s 4 (retro)
 om 2002 No. 17 s 17 (retro)

Powers on investigation

s 32 amd 2008 No. 75 s 50

Court may order repayment etc.

s 51A ins 2008 No. 75 s 51

Offence to disclose confidential information

s 68 amd 2001 No. 72 s 164 sch 1; 2008 No. 75 s 52

Disqualifying arrangements

s 69A ins 2003 No. 90 s 10

**PART 7—TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT
 AMENDMENT ACT 2003**

pt 7 (s 72) prev pt 7 ins 2001 No. 21 s 5 (retro)
 om 2002 No. 17 s 18 (retro)
 pres pt 7 ins 2003 No. 90 s 11

Transitional provision for particular approved form

s 74 ins 2008 No. 75 s 54

SCHEDULE—DICTIONARY

sch hdg (prev sch 1 hdg) sub 2001 No. 21 s 3 sch (retro)
 def “**commissioner**” sub 2001 No. 72 s 164 sch 1
 def “**new home**” ins 2008 No. 75 s 55 (retro)
 def “**permanent resident**” sub 2000 No. 20 s 29 sch 3
 def “**residence requirement**” om 2003 No. 90 s 12(1)
 def “**residence requirements**” ins 2003 No. 90 s 12(2)
 def “**special eligible transaction**” ins 2008 No. 75 s 55 (retro)
 def “**taxation law**” sub 2001 No. 72 s 164 sch 1

8 List of forms notified or published in the gazette

(The following information about forms is taken from the gazette and is included for information purposes only. Because failure by a department to notify or publish a form in the gazette does not invalidate the form, you should check with the relevant government department for the latest information about forms (see Statutory Instruments Act, section 58(8)).)

Form FHOG 1 Version 2—First Home Owner Grant Application Form

pubd gaz 16 January 2004 p 134

Form FHOG 1 Addendum Version 2—Application for New Home Grant \$7000
pubd gaz 16 January 2004 p 134

Form FHOG 1 Addendum Version 2—Application for New Home Grant \$3000
pubd gaz 16 January 2004 p 134

**Form FHOG 1 Addendum Version 1—Age Restriction/Disqualifying
Arrangements/Residency Requirements**
pubd gaz 16 January 2004 p 134

9 Information about retrospectivity

Retrospective amendments that have been consolidated are noted in the list of legislation and list of annotations. Any retrospective amendment that has not been consolidated is noted in editor's notes to the text.