

Fines Act 1996 No 99

[1996-99]



New South Wales

Status Information

Currency of version

Historical version for 1 September 2004 to 4 October 2004 (accessed 14 April 2024 at 9:35)

Legislation on this site is usually updated within 3 working days after a change to the legislation.

Provisions in force

Some, but not all, of the provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have commenced.

Notes—

- **Does not include amendments by**

[Business Names Act 2002 No 97](#) (not commenced — to commence on 5.10.2004)

[Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act 2002 No 103](#) (not commenced)

[Conveyancers Licensing Act 2003 No 3](#) (not commenced)

[Valuers Act 2003 No 4](#) (not commenced)

[Occupational Health and Safety Amendment \(Dangerous Goods\) Act 2003 No 38](#) (not commenced)

[Veterinary Practice Act 2003 No 87](#) (not commenced)

[Native Vegetation Act 2003 No 103](#) (not commenced)

[Electricity \(Consumer Safety\) Act 2004 No 4](#) (not commenced)

[Fines Amendment Act 2004 No 43](#), Sch 1 [30]–[32] [46] and [50] (not commenced — to commence on 1.1.2005)

[Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 No 70](#) (not commenced)

- **See also**

[Stock Medicines Amendment Bill 2004](#)

Authorisation

This version of the legislation is compiled and maintained in a database of legislation by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and published on the NSW legislation website, and is certified as the form of that legislation that is correct under section 45C of the [Interpretation Act 1987](#).

File last modified 28 September 2004

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New South Wales

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Fines Act 1996 No 99



New South Wales

An Act relating to fines and their enforcement, and to other matters.

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Fines Act 1996*.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation, subject to subsection (2).
- (2) The day appointed for the commencement of clause 2 of Schedule 3 is to be a day that is at least 3 months before the day appointed for the commencement of clause 3 of that Schedule.

Note—

Clause 2 of Schedule 3 provides for an amnesty period, before the application of the Act to existing fine defaulters under clause 3 of that Schedule, during which action to commit existing fine defaulters to prison is suspended.

3 Definitions

- (1) In this Act:

Act includes a Code or other statutory provision of another jurisdiction that applies as a law of this State.

appropriate officer for a penalty notice—see section 22.

court means the Supreme Court, the Industrial Relations Commission, the Land and Environment Court, the District Court, a Local Court, the Children's Court or any other court.

court fine enforcement order—see section 12.

driver licence means a driver licence under the *Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998*.

exercise of a function includes the performance of a duty.

fine—see section 4.

fine defaulter means a person liable to pay a fine under a fine enforcement order.

fine enforcement order means a court fine enforcement order or a penalty notice enforcement order.

function includes a power, authority or duty.

Hardship Review Board means the Hardship Review Board constituted under section 101A.

law enforcement officer means a person exercising law enforcement functions in the official capacity of any of the following:

- (a) the Director of Public Prosecutions, a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions or a Solicitor for Public Prosecutions,
- (b) a Crown Prosecutor,
- (c) a police officer,
- (d) a public servant,
- (e) an officer or employee of a statutory body representing the Crown,
- (f) a member or an employee of a local council,
- (g) an officer or employee of a rural lands protection board,
- (h) an officer within the meaning of the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979](#),
- (i) an officer or employee of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

pay a fine or amount means to pay the fine or amount in full by its due date and, if payment by instalments is permitted under this Act, includes to pay each instalment in full by its due date.

penalty notice—see section 20.

penalty notice enforcement order—see section 40.

registered, in relation to a vehicle, means registered under the [Road Transport \(Vehicle Registration\) Act 1997](#).

State Debt Recovery Office means the State Debt Recovery Office established under Part 8.

(2) Notes in the text of this Act do not form part of this Act.

4 Meaning of “fine”

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a **fine** is:

- (a) any monetary penalty imposed by a court for an offence, or
- (b) any amount payable under a penalty notice enforcement order, or
- (c) any court fees or charges payable by a person under an order made by a court in proceedings for an offence, or
- (d) any compensation levy payable under Part 5 of the [Victims Compensation Act 1996](#), or
- (e) any witnesses’ expenses payable by a person under an order made by a court in proceedings for an offence that were brought by a law enforcement officer, or
- (f) any costs (including expenses or disbursements) payable by a person under an order made by a court in proceedings for an offence that were brought by a law enforcement officer, or
- (g) any other amount of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

(2) However, a **fine** does not include:

- (a) (Repealed)
- (b) any amount of a kind excluded by the regulations.

(3) In this section, **proceedings for an offence** includes:

- (a) proceedings for an apprehended violence order, and
- (b) proceedings on appeal in respect of proceedings for an offence.

Part 2 Fines imposed by courts

Division 1 General

5 Summary of procedure for payment of court fines

(1) The following is a summary of the procedure under this Part for the payment of fines imposed by any court:

(a) **Payment details**

A fine imposed by a court is payable within 28 days after it is imposed.

(b) **Notification of fine**

The person on whom the fine is imposed is to be notified of the fine, the arrangements for payment and the action that may be taken under this Act to enforce the fine.

(c) **Time to pay**

A court registrar may allow further time to pay the fine on the application of the person.

(d) **Enforcement order**

If payment of the fine is not made by the due date, a court fine enforcement order may be made against the person. If the person does not pay the amount (including enforcement costs) within 28 days, enforcement action authorised by this Act may be taken (see Part 4).

(e) **Withdrawal of enforcement order**

A court fine enforcement order may be withdrawn if an error has been made.

(2) This section does not affect the provisions of this Part that it summarises.

6 Consideration of accused's means to pay (cf *Crimes Act 1900* sec 440AB and *Justices Act 1902* sec 80A)

In the exercise by a court of a discretion to fix the amount of any fine, the court is required to consider:

- (a) such information regarding the means of the accused as is reasonably and practicably available to the court for consideration, and
- (b) such other matters as, in the opinion of the court, are relevant to the fixing of that amount.

Division 2 Payment of fines

7 When fine payable

- (1) A fine imposed by any court is payable within 28 days after it is imposed.
- (2) Arrangements for the payment of the fine after that time may be made under this Part.
- (3) The court, when imposing a fine:
 - (a) may direct that the fine is payable before that time for the special reasons stated by the court, and
 - (b) may not allow time for payment of the fine after that time.

8 To whom fine payable

- (1) A fine imposed by any court is payable to the registrar of the court unless the court or the registrar of the court otherwise directs.
- (2) The payment may be lodged with the registrar or other officer of any court.

9 Fine notification

- (1) Written notice of a fine imposed on a person by a court is to be served on the person by the registrar or other officer of the court as soon as practicable after the fine is imposed.
- (2) The notice may be served personally or by post, by means of document exchange, by facsimile transmission or by any other means authorised by the regulations.
- (3) The notice is to be served personally during or at the completion of the proceedings concerned if the person is present at those proceedings and available to be served.
- (4) The notice is to specify the amount payable, the time for payment and the person to whom it is to be paid. The notice is to inform the person:
 - (a) of the arrangements that may be made for further time to pay the amount, and
 - (b) of enforcement action that may be taken under this Act if the amount is not paid by the due date, and
 - (c) of additional enforcement costs that become payable under this Act if enforcement action is taken.
- (5) The regulations may make provisions for or with respect to the form and service of the notice.

10 Application to registrar for further time to pay fine

- (1) A person liable to pay a fine imposed by a court may apply for further time to pay the fine to:
 - (a) the registrar of that court, or
 - (b) in the case of a fine imposed by a Local Court—the registrar of any Local Court, or
 - (c) any other registrar of a court specified in the notice of the fine served on the person under this Part as a registrar who may deal with the application.
- (2) The registrar may, by order, allow further time to pay the fine if it appears expedient to do so.
- (3) The registrar may, by such an order:

- (a) extend the time for payment of the whole fine, or
 - (b) allow the fine to be paid by instalments in such amounts, and at such times, as the registrar specifies.
- (4) If an instalment of a fine is not paid by the due date, the remaining instalments then become payable.
- (5) An order allowing further time to pay a fine may be amended or revoked by a further order made on the application of the person liable to pay the fine or on the registrar's own initiative.

11 Provisions relating to application for further time to pay fine

- (1) This section applies to an application for further time to pay a fine.
- (2) More than one application may be made in respect of a fine (whether or not the earlier applications were granted).
- (3) The registrar may, for the purposes of dealing with an application, require the applicant to provide information or documents in support of the application (including documents relating to the financial means and identity of the applicant). The registrar may refuse to deal with the application if the information or documents are not provided.
- (4) The registrar, when dealing with an application, is to comply with such requirements as are prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section. The registrar is also to have due regard to any relevant guidelines under section 120.
- (5) The decision of the registrar on an application is final, and may not be appealed against, reviewed, quashed, or called into question by any court or tribunal.
- (6) The registrar may not grant an application after a court fine enforcement order is made in respect of the fine.

Note—

After the making of the enforcement order, an application for further time to pay may be made to the State Debt Recovery Office (see section 100).

- (7) The registrar of a court may authorise any officer of the court to deal with an application and to make, amend or revoke an order allowing further time to pay a fine.

Division 3 Court fine enforcement orders

12 What is a court fine enforcement order?

- (1) A court fine enforcement order is an order made by the State Debt Recovery Office for the enforcement of a fine imposed by a court.

- (2) A single order may be made for the enforcement of 2 or more fines payable by a person.

Note—

Part 4 provides for the fine defaulter to be notified by the State Debt Recovery Office of the enforcement order and of the enforcement action that may be taken if the outstanding balance of the fine (and enforcement costs) is not paid within 28 days.

13 Referral for a court fine enforcement order

- (1) The registrar of the court that imposed a fine (or, if the fine is payable to the registrar of some other court, the registrar of the court to whom the fine is payable) is to refer the matter to the State Debt Recovery Office for the making of a court fine enforcement order if the fine has not been paid by the due date.
- (2) A matter may be referred to the State Debt Recovery Office for the making of a court fine enforcement order:
 - (a) by post, or
 - (b) by means of a document exchange, or
 - (c) by facsimile transmission or other electronic transmission.

14 When an order may be made

- (1) A court fine enforcement order may be made only if there has been a default in payment of the fine by the due date.
- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office is not required to inquire into whether this section authorises the making of an order in a matter referred to it by the registrar of a court.
- (3) A court fine enforcement order may be made in the absence of, and without notice to, the person liable to pay the fine.
- (4) The State Debt Recovery Office may, but is not required to, make a court fine enforcement order if a fine to which it is to apply has previously been the subject of a court fine enforcement order in respect of which any enforcement action has been taken.

15 Form of court enforcement order

- (1) A court fine enforcement order must specify the following matters:
 - (a) the fine defaulter's name, address and date of birth (if known),
 - (b) a description of the offence in respect of which each fine to which the order applies was imposed,

- (c) the date on which the fine was imposed,
 - (d) the amount required to be paid, being the amount of the fine that remains to be paid, together with specified enforcement costs.
- (2) Any amount recovered in consequence of the making of a court fine enforcement order (other than for enforcement costs) is to be dealt with in the same way as if the amount had been paid on the imposition of the fine.

16 Enforcement costs under order

- (1) The regulations may prescribe the enforcement costs payable under a court fine enforcement order and an amount is not payable for enforcement costs unless it is so prescribed, or is payable under section 76A (Sheriff's additional costs of taking enforcement action under this Division).
- (2) The following applies to any such enforcement costs:
- (a) an amount may be prescribed as the enforcement costs payable to the State Debt Recovery Office on the making of the order,
 - (b) an amount may be prescribed as the enforcement costs payable to the Roads and Traffic Authority if any enforcement action is taken by that Authority under Division 3 of Part 4 before payment is made under the order,
 - (c) an amount may be prescribed as the enforcement costs payable into the Consolidated Fund if any enforcement action is taken by the Sheriff or other official under Division 4 of Part 4 before payment is made under the order.
- (3) Any amount recovered in consequence of the making of a court fine enforcement order is to be applied firstly towards enforcement costs payable under this section or section 76A and the balance towards the amount payable under the fine.

17 Withdrawal of order

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may, on application or its own initiative, withdraw a court fine enforcement order if satisfied that:
- (a) a fine to which it applies has previously been the subject of a court fine enforcement order in respect of which any enforcement action has been taken, or
 - (b) the person named in the court fine enforcement order is not the same person as the person in respect of whom a fine to which it applies was imposed, or
 - (c) the order was otherwise made in error.
- (2) A court fine enforcement order must be withdrawn if application for its withdrawal is made by the registrar who referred the matter to the State Debt Recovery Office.

- (3) A court fine enforcement order may be withdrawn completely or only to the extent of some of the fines to which it applies.
- (4) If a court fine enforcement order is withdrawn completely:
 - (a) the order then ceases to have effect, and
 - (b) any enforcement action already taken is to be reversed, unless the same enforcement action is authorised under another court fine enforcement order or penalty notice enforcement order, and
 - (c) enforcement costs are not payable in respect of the issue of the order and, if paid, are repayable.
- (4A) If a court fine enforcement order is withdrawn only to the extent of some of the fines to which it applies:
 - (a) the order continues to have effect in respect of the remaining fines to which it applies, and
 - (b) any amount that has been paid under the order is to be applied to payment of the remaining fines to which it applies and any enforcement costs in respect of that order.
- (5) The withdrawal of a court fine enforcement order does not prevent the making of a further order in respect of the fine.

18 (Repealed)

Part 3 Penalty notices

Division 1 Summary of penalty notice procedure

19 Summary of penalty notice procedure

- (1) The following is a summary of the penalty notice procedure under this Part:

- (a) **Breach of statutory provision**

- A person is alleged to have committed an offence under a statutory provision for which a penalty notice may be issued (see Division 2 and Schedule 1).

- (b) **Issue of penalty notice**

- A penalty notice is issued under the relevant statutory provision. The notice requires payment of a specified monetary penalty, unless the person alleged to have committed the offence elects to have the matter dealt with by a court (see Division 2 and Schedule 1).

- (c) **Penalty reminder notice**

If the penalty is not paid, a penalty reminder notice is issued. The person who is alleged to have committed the offence may elect to have the matter dealt with by a court (see Division 3).

(d) **Enforcement order**

If payment of the specified monetary penalty is not made and the person does not elect to have the matter dealt with by a court, a penalty notice enforcement order may be made against the person (see Division 4). If the person does not pay the amount (including enforcement costs) within 28 days, enforcement action authorised by this Act may be taken in the same way as action may be taken for the enforcement of a fine imposed on a person after a court hearing for the offence (see Part 4).

(e) **Withdrawal of enforcement order**

A penalty notice enforcement order may be withdrawn if an error has been made (see Division 4).

(f) **Annulment of enforcement order**

A penalty notice enforcement order may, on application, be annulled by the State Debt Recovery Office or, if the Office refuses the application, by a Local Court. If the order is annulled, the alleged offence is to be heard and determined by the Local Court (see Division 5).

(2) This section does not affect the provisions of this Part that it summarises.

Division 2 Penalty notices

20 What is a penalty notice?

- (1) A penalty notice is a notice referred to in subsection (2) to the effect that the person to whom it is directed has committed a specified offence and that, if the person does not wish to have the matter dealt with by a court, the person may pay the specified amount for the offence to a specified person within a specified time.
- (2) A penalty notice for the purposes of this Act is:
 - (a) a notice issued under any of the statutory provisions set out in Schedule 1, or
 - (b) any similar notice issued under any statutory provision specified by the regulations for the purposes of this section, or
 - (c) a notice issued under a statutory provision previously set out in Schedule 1 or previously specified by those regulations.
- (3) A notice is not a penalty notice for the purposes of this Act unless it is of a kind referred to in subsection (2).

21 When penalty notices may be issued

A penalty notice may be issued in the circumstances specified in the statutory provision providing for the issue of the notice.

22 Persons who may issue and deal with penalty notices (appropriate officers)

- (1) A penalty notice may be issued by a person authorised by the statutory provision providing for the issue of the notice.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, the following are **appropriate officers** for a penalty notice:
 - (a) a person so authorised to issue that kind of penalty notice,
 - (b) a person employed in the Office of State Revenue in the Treasury and authorised by the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue for the purposes of this Part,
 - (c) a person, or a member of a specified class of persons, specified in the regulations for that kind of penalty notice or for all penalty notices.

23 Payment of amount required by penalty notice

- (1) For the purposes of this Part, the amount payable under a penalty notice is the amount specified in the notice, as fixed by or in accordance with law.
- (2) Payment of that amount results in there being no further liability for further proceedings for the offence to which the notice relates.

Note—

The statutory provisions under which mechanisms for the issue of penalty notices are provided also provide for the effect of payment in accordance with the notice. The effect of payment in accordance with a penalty notice generally is that no further proceedings will be taken for the alleged offence. Payment generally does not have the effect of an admission of any liability in relation to the events out of which the offence arose.

24 Failure to pay amount required by penalty notice

Divisions 3–5 set out the procedure that applies when a person who has been served with a penalty notice fails to pay the amount payable under the notice within the time required by the notice.

Division 3 Penalty reminder notices

25 What is a penalty reminder notice?

A penalty reminder notice is a notice (and any matter annexed to, or enclosed with, a notice) served on a person on whom a penalty notice (and any matter annexed to, or enclosed with, a notice) has been served and containing the matters required by this Division.

26 When a penalty reminder notice may be sent

An appropriate officer may serve a penalty reminder notice on a person on whom a penalty notice was served if it appears to the officer that the amount payable under the penalty notice has not been paid within the time required by the notice.

27 What a penalty reminder notice must say

- (1) A penalty reminder notice must inform the person on whom it is served:
 - (a) that the person has until the due date specified in the notice to make the payment for the offence specified in the notice, and
 - (b) of enforcement action that may be taken under this Act if the amount is not paid by the due date, and
 - (c) of additional enforcement costs that become payable under this Act if enforcement action is taken.
- (2) If the regulations prescribe the form of a penalty reminder notice, a penalty reminder notice must be in that form.
- (3) The inclusion in a penalty reminder notice of additional information and directions for the assistance or guidance of the person on whom it is served does not affect the validity of the penalty reminder notice.

28 Service of penalty reminder notices

- (1) A penalty reminder notice may be served on a person:
 - (a) personally, or
 - (b) by post, or
 - (c) by means of a document exchange, or
 - (d) by facsimile transmission or other electronic transmission, or
 - (e) by any other manner prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) The address for service of any such penalty reminder notice includes:
 - (a) the address of the person shown on the relevant penalty notice or supplied by the person in connection with the service of the relevant penalty notice, or
 - (b) if the relevant penalty notice was served on the person in his or her capacity as owner of a vehicle or vessel or was served by being left on a vehicle or vessel—the address shown in the records of the Roads and Traffic Authority or other public agency as the address of the owner of the vehicle or vessel at the time the relevant penalty notice was served, or

- (c) if the relevant penalty notice was served on the person in his or her capacity as the person driving or in charge of a vehicle or vessel—the address specified in a statutory declaration under section 38 as the address of the person in charge of the vehicle or vessel at the time of the alleged offence.

29 Time for service of penalty reminder notices by post

Despite any other provision of this Act, it is presumed that a penalty reminder notice sent to a person by post is served on the person 7 days after it is posted, unless the person establishes that it was not served within that 7-day period.

30 Due date for payment in penalty reminder notices

- (1) The due date for payment in a penalty reminder notice must be at least 21 days after it is served on the person.
- (2) Accordingly, a penalty reminder notice that is posted may specify a date that is at least 28 days after the penalty reminder notice is posted as the due date for making the payment concerned.

31 Extension of due date if notice takes more than 7 days

- (1) If a penalty reminder notice is served on a person more than 7 days after it was posted, the notice is not invalid merely because it specifies as the due date a date that is less than 21 days after it was served on the person.
- (2) In such a case however, the due date is extended to a date that is 21 days after the penalty reminder notice was served and the penalty reminder notice is taken to specify that date as the due date.

32 Effect of penalty reminder notice on payment time in penalty notice

If a penalty reminder notice is served on a person, the time for payment of the amount payable under the penalty notice for the offence concerned is extended to the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice for payment.

33 Payment under penalty reminder notice

Payment of the amount payable under the penalty notice to which a penalty reminder notice relates may be made in accordance with the penalty notice and the relevant provisions of the statutory provision under which the notice was served.

34 Effect of payment under penalty reminder notice

Payment of the amount payable under the penalty notice to which a penalty reminder notice relates has the same effect as payment in accordance with the penalty notice.

35 Alleged offender's right to elect to have matter dealt with by court

A person alleged to have committed or to be guilty of the offence to which a penalty notice relates has the right to elect to have the matter dealt with by a court instead of under this Part.

36 How person may elect to have matter dealt with by court

- (1) A person may elect to have a matter dealt with by a court:
 - (a) by serving on the appropriate officer or other person or body specified in the penalty reminder notice a written statement that the person so elects, or
 - (b) by serving on the appropriate officer or other person or body specified in the penalty notice a written statement that the person so elects.
- (2) The statement must be served on or before the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice for payment in relation to the offence concerned or not later than 21 days after the penalty notice was served, whichever is the later.
- (3) The statement may be served on a person personally or by post, by means of document exchange, by facsimile transmission or in any other manner prescribed by the regulations.
- (4) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the form of written statements under this section.

37 Matter to proceed

If a person duly elects to have the matter dealt with by a court, proceedings against the person in respect of the offence may be taken as if a penalty notice or penalty reminder notice had not been issued.

37A Extension of time limit for taking proceedings if person has elected to have penalty notice matter dealt with by court

- (1) This section applies to proceedings for a summary offence that has an applicable limitation period (apart from this section) of less than 12 months if:
 - (a) a penalty notice in relation to the offence has been issued to a person within that applicable limitation period, and
 - (b) the person has duly elected, in accordance with this Part, to have the matter dealt with by a court.
- (2) Proceedings relating to that offence may, despite the applicable limitation period, be commenced not later than 12 months from when the offence was alleged to have been committed.

Note—

An election to have a penalty notice matter dealt with by a court must be made in accordance with section 36.

- (3) Subsection (2) does not affect the operation of section 179 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* in relation to the commencement in any other circumstances of proceedings for an offence.

38 Circumstances in which person issued with penalty reminder notice for vehicle or vessel offence is not liable to pay penalty

- (1) A person on whom a penalty reminder notice is served in relation to a vehicle or vessel offence is not liable to make any payment under the penalty notice if the person:
- (a) on or before the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice supplies by statutory declaration to the appropriate officer for the penalty notice to which the penalty reminder notice relates (or other person or body specified in the notice), the name and address of some other person who was in charge of the vehicle or vessel concerned at all relevant times relating to the offence, or
 - (b) satisfies the appropriate officer (or the specified person or body) that the person did not know and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained that name and address.
- (2) A statutory declaration under subsection (1) if produced in any proceedings against the person named in it and in respect of the vehicle or vessel offence concerned is prima facie evidence that the person was in charge of the vehicle or vessel at all relevant times relating to the offence.
- (3) A statutory declaration that relates to more than one vehicle or vessel offence is taken not to be a statutory declaration under, or for the purposes of, subsection (1).
- (4) In this section:

vehicle or vessel offence means any of the following offences:

- (a) an offence of standing or parking a vehicle or of causing or permitting a vehicle to stand, wait or be parked in contravention of any law,
- (b) an offence relating to a vehicle or vessel (such as exceeding the speed limit) that is detected by an approved camera detection device or an approved speed measuring device within the meaning of the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999* and in respect of which the penalty notice is served subsequently on the owner of the vehicle or vessel,
- (c) an offence under section 23 of the *Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983*,
- (d) an offence under section 161 of the *Crown Lands Act 1989*,

- (e) an offence under section 38C of the *Forestry Act 1916*,
- (f) an offence under section 32A of the *Impounding Act 1993*,
- (g) an offence under section 651 of the *Local Government Act 1993*,
- (h) an offence under section 30C of the *Maritime Services Act 1935*,
- (i) an offence under section 159 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*,
- (j) an offence under section 29 of the *Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001*,
- (k) an offence under section 43 of the *Road Transport (General) Act 1999*,
- (l) an offence under section 244 of the *Roads Act 1993*,
- (m) an offence under section 22A of the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*,
- (n) an offence under section 20A of the *State Sports Centre Trust Act 1984*,
- (o) an offence under section 78 of the *Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001*,
- (p) an offence under section 116 of the *Transport Administration Act 1988*,
- (q) an offence relating to a vehicle or vessel that is of a kind prescribed by the regulations.

39 Withdrawal of penalty reminder notices

- (1) An appropriate officer may withdraw a penalty reminder notice before the due date for payment under the notice.
- (2) The following provisions have effect in relation to an alleged offence, if a penalty reminder notice for the alleged offence is withdrawn in accordance with this section:
 - (a) the amount that was payable under the notice ceases to be payable,
 - (b) any amount that has been paid under the notice is repayable to the person by whom it was paid,
 - (c) further proceedings in respect of the alleged offence may be taken against any person (including the person on whom the notice was served) as if the notice had not been issued.

Division 4 Penalty notice enforcement orders

40 What is a penalty notice enforcement order?

- (1) A penalty notice enforcement order is an order made by the State Debt Recovery

Office for the enforcement of the amount payable under a penalty notice.

- (2) A single order may be made for the enforcement of the amounts payable under 2 or more penalty notices.

Note—

Part 4 provides for the fine defaulter to be notified by the State Debt Recovery Office of the enforcement order and of the enforcement action that may be taken if the outstanding balance of the amount payable under the penalty notice (and enforcement costs) is not paid within 28 days.

41 Who may apply for a penalty notice enforcement order?

An appropriate officer for a penalty notice may apply for a penalty notice enforcement order.

42 When a penalty notice enforcement order may be made

- (1) A penalty notice enforcement order may be made only if:
- (a) a penalty notice has been served on a person in relation to a particular offence referred to in the order, and
 - (b) a penalty reminder notice has been served on the person after the end of the time specified in the penalty notice as the time within which the amount payable under the notice may be paid, and
 - (c) the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice has passed, and
 - (d) the amount payable under the penalty notice had not been paid before the order is made, and
 - (e) the person has not, in accordance with this Part, declined to be dealt with under this Part, and
 - (f) a court attendance notice in relation to the offence has not been issued, and
 - (g) (Repealed)
 - (h) the facts as alleged in or referred to in the order constitute the offence.
- (1A) A penalty notice enforcement order may not be made later than:
- (a) if the applicable limitation period in relation to the offence is less than 12 months—12 months from when the offence was committed or is alleged to have been committed, or
 - (b) if the applicable limitation period in relation to the offence is 12 months or greater—the expiry of that limitation period.
- (2) An application for a penalty notice enforcement order must certify:

- (a) that the matters specified in subsection (1) (other than subsection (1) (d)) are satisfied, and
- (b) that the amount payable under the penalty notice has not been paid, and
- (c) that the period for making the order (as referred to in subsection (1A)) has not expired.

(2A) The State Debt Recovery Office may rely on the certificate for the purpose of making the order.

(3) A penalty notice enforcement order may be made in the absence of, and without notice to, the person concerned.

43 Form of penalty notice enforcement order

(1) A penalty notice enforcement order must specify the following matters:

- (a) the fine defaulter's name, address and date of birth (if known),
- (b) a description of the offence in respect of which each fine to which the order applies was imposed,
- (c) the date on which the fine was imposed,
- (d) the amount required to be paid, being the amount that remains to be paid under the penalty notice, together with specified enforcement costs.

(2) Any amount recovered in consequence of the making of a penalty notice enforcement order (other than for enforcement costs) is to be dealt with in the same way as if the amount had been paid on the issue of the penalty notice.

44 Enforcement costs under penalty notice enforcement order

(1) The regulations may prescribe the enforcement costs payable under a penalty notice enforcement order and an amount is not payable for enforcement costs unless it is so prescribed or is payable under section 76A (Sheriff's additional costs of taking enforcement action under this Division).

(2) The following applies to any such enforcement costs:

- (a) an amount may be prescribed as the enforcement costs payable to the State Debt Recovery Office on the making of the order,
- (b) an amount may be prescribed as the enforcement costs payable to the Roads and Traffic Authority if any enforcement action is taken by that Authority under Division 3 of Part 4 before payment is made under the order,
- (c) an amount may be prescribed as the enforcement costs payable into the

Consolidated Fund if any enforcement action is taken by the Sheriff or other official under Division 4 of Part 4 before payment is made under the order.

- (3) Any amount recovered in consequence of the making of a penalty notice enforcement order is to be applied firstly towards enforcement costs payable under this section or section 76A and the balance towards the amount payable under the penalty notice.

45 Effect of making, or of payment under, penalty notice enforcement order

- (1) If a penalty notice enforcement order is made in relation to an offence alleged to have been committed by a person:
 - (a) the person is not as a result taken to have been convicted of the offence, and
 - (b) the making of the order does not in any way affect or prejudice any civil claim, action or proceeding arising out of the same occurrence.
- (2) If the full amount payable under a penalty notice enforcement order is paid or recovered, no person is liable for any further proceedings for the alleged offence concerned. This subsection ceases to apply if the order is duly withdrawn under this Part and the amount paid under the order is repaid.
- (3) The payment of any amount payable under a penalty notice enforcement order is not an admission of liability for the purpose of and does not in any way affect or prejudice any civil claim, action or proceeding arising out of the same occurrence.
- (4) Nothing in this section affects the operation of any provisions of Division 5 relating to the annulment of a penalty notice enforcement order or any provisions of Part 4 relating to the enforcement of a penalty notice enforcement order.

46 Withdrawal of order

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may, on application or its own initiative, withdraw a penalty notice enforcement order if satisfied that:
 - (a) a fine to which it applies has previously been the subject of a penalty notice enforcement order in respect of which any enforcement action has been taken, or
 - (b) the person named in the penalty notice enforcement order is not the same person as the person in respect of whom a fine to which the order applies was imposed, or
 - (c) the order relates to the owner of a vehicle or vessel, being a vehicle or vessel involved in an offence the subject of the fine at a time when the owner was not the owner of the vehicle or vessel concerned, or
 - (d) the order was otherwise made in error.
- (2) A penalty notice enforcement order must be withdrawn if application for its

withdrawal is made by the appropriate officer who applied for the order.

- (3) A penalty notice enforcement order may be withdrawn completely or only to the extent of some of the penalty notices to which it applies.
- (4) If a penalty notice enforcement order is withdrawn completely:
 - (a) the order then ceases to have effect, and
 - (b) any enforcement action already taken is to be reversed, unless the same enforcement action is authorised under another penalty notice enforcement order or a court fine enforcement order, and
 - (c) enforcement costs are not payable in respect of the issue of the order and, if paid, are repayable, and
 - (d) any amount that has been paid under the order is repayable to the person by whom it was paid.
- (5) If a penalty notice enforcement order is withdrawn only to the extent of some of the penalty notices to which it applies:
 - (a) the order continues to have effect in respect of the remaining penalty notices to which it applies, and
 - (b) any amount that has been paid under the order is to be applied to payment of the remaining penalty notices to which it applies and any enforcement costs in respect of that order.
- (6) The withdrawal of a penalty notice enforcement order does not prevent the making of a further order in respect of the penalty notice.

47 Regulations relating to orders

The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the making or withdrawal of penalty notice enforcement orders, including the following:

- (a), (b) (Repealed)
- (c) the form of any such order,
- (d) the manner of making any such order.

Division 5 Annulment of penalty notice enforcement orders

48 Applications for annulment of orders

- (1) An application may be made by or on behalf of any person for the annulment of a penalty notice enforcement order made against the person under Division 4.

- (2) (Repealed)
- (3) An application for annulment is to be made in writing to the State Debt Recovery Office.
- (4) (Repealed)
- (5) A person may not, except with the leave of the State Debt Recovery Office, make more than one application in relation to the same matter.
- (6) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to applications under this section (including application fees).

49 Determination of applications by State Debt Recovery Office

- (1) (Repealed)
- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office, when dealing with an application for annulment, must grant the application and annul the penalty notice enforcement order if satisfied that:
 - (a) the person was not aware that a penalty notice had been issued until the enforcement order was made, or
 - (b) the person was otherwise hindered by accident, illness, misadventure or other cause from taking action in relation to the penalty notice, or
 - (b1) a question or doubt has arisen as to the person's liability for the penalty or other amount concerned, or
 - (c) having regard to the circumstances of the case, there is other just cause why the application should be granted.
- (3) If the State Debt Recovery Office annuls a penalty notice enforcement order, it must refer the matter to a Local Court unless the amount payable under the penalty notice is paid on the annulment of the order.

Note—

Section 51 provides that the Local Court is to hear and determine the alleged offence as if no penalty notice enforcement order had been made.

- (4) Applications for annulment are to be dealt with by the State Debt Recovery Office in the absence of the parties, unless that Office otherwise determines.
- (5) The State Debt Recovery Office must give notice of the determination of an application for annulment to all parties interested or concerned.
- (6) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the practice and procedure of the State Debt Recovery Office when dealing with applications for annulment.
- (7) The State Debt Recovery Office may, but is not required to, refund any application fee

for an application for an annulment that is successful.

49A Review of penalty notice where doubt as to liability

- (1) Before the State Debt Recovery Office annuls a penalty notice enforcement order made against a person on the ground that a question or doubt has arisen as to the person's liability for the penalty or other amount concerned, it must refer the matter to the appropriate officer who applied for the order or the person or body on behalf of whom the penalty notice was issued (the ***prosecuting authority***).
- (2) The prosecuting authority must review the matter to determine whether a penalty notice to which the penalty notice enforcement order applies should be withdrawn.
- (3) A review is to be dealt with in the absence of the parties, unless the prosecuting authority otherwise determines.
- (4) The prosecuting authority must notify the applicant for the annulment and the State Debt Recovery Office of its determination on the review of the penalty notice.
- (5) If the prosecuting authority determines that a penalty notice should be withdrawn (in whole or in part), the State Debt Recovery Office must withdraw the penalty notice enforcement order (in whole or in part) under section 46.
- (6) The State Debt Recovery Office must, if a penalty notice is not withdrawn on review or there is no decision on a review within 42 days after referral for review, grant the application for annulment and annul the penalty notice enforcement order under section 49.

50 Appeal against refusal of application by State Debt Recovery Office

- (1) If the State Debt Recovery Office refuses an application for annulment, the applicant may, not later than 28 days after notice is given of the refusal, lodge an application in writing with the registrar of a Local Court to have the original application determined by the Local Court.
- (2) The registrar must, as soon as possible, refer the matter to the Local Court and notify the applicant and the parties interested as to the date, time and place on or at which the application is to be determined.
- (3) The Local Court before which a matter is brought under this section may determine the application in accordance with this Division and may make any decision about the application that the State Debt Recovery Office may have made.
- (4) The Local Court may proceed to determine an application referred to it by a registrar despite any omission or error in a notice of the referral or its non-service if:
 - (a) the Local Court is satisfied that the applicant and the parties interested and concerned had knowledge of the date, time and place on or at which the

application was to be determined and were not prejudiced by the omission, error or non-service, or

(b) the Local Court is satisfied that the applicant is avoiding service of the notice or cannot, after reasonable search and inquiry, be found.

(5) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to applications under this section (including application fees).

51 Proceedings for alleged offence if fine enforcement order annulled

- (1) If a fine enforcement order is annulled by a Local Court (or is annulled by the State Debt Recovery Office and referred to a Local Court), the Local Court is to hear and determine the matter as if no penalty notice enforcement order had been previously made.
- (2) If a Local Court annuls the penalty notice enforcement order, the Local Court may proceed either immediately or at a later sitting of the Court to hear and determine the matter.
- (3) The matter is not to be heard and determined if the amount payable under the penalty notice is paid on the annulment of the order.
- (4) For the purposes of hearing and determining the matter, the application for the order (together with any annexure or certificate) is taken:
 - (a) to be a court attendance notice in relation to the alleged offence, and
 - (b) to have been filed when it was made, and
 - (c) to have been filed by the person who made the application.

The appropriate officer for the penalty notice is taken to be the prosecutor for the offence.

52 Provisions relating to annulment of enforcement orders

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office or a Local Court dealing with an application for annulment may stay enforcement action under the penalty notice enforcement order subject to such terms and conditions as that Office or Court thinks fit.
- (2) An application may be made for the annulment of 2 or more penalty notice enforcement orders, but the application for the order taken under this Division to be an information may only relate to one offence.
- (3) An application may be made for the annulment of a penalty notice enforcement order completely or only to the extent of some of the penalty notices to which it applies.
- (4) If a penalty notice enforcement order is annulled completely:

- (a) the order then ceases to have effect, and
 - (b) any enforcement action already taken is to be reversed, unless the same enforcement action is authorised under another penalty notice enforcement order or a court fine enforcement order, and
 - (c) enforcement costs are not payable in respect of the issue of the order and, if paid, are repayable, and
 - (d) any amount that has been paid under the order is repayable to the person by whom it was paid.
- (5) If a penalty notice enforcement order is annulled only to the extent of some of the penalty notices to which it applies:
- (a) the order continues to have effect in respect of the remaining penalty notices to which it applies, and
 - (b) any amount that has been paid under the order is to be applied to payment of the remaining penalty notices to which it applies and any enforcement costs in respect of that order.
- (6) (Repealed)
- (7) If a penalty notice enforcement order is annulled, the period within which proceedings for an offence may be instituted in respect of the matter under section 179 of the [Criminal Procedure Act 1986](#) or any other Act commences on the date the order is annulled.

Division 6 Application of Part

53 Application of penalty notice procedure to children

- (1) This Part applies to a person of any age.
- (2) However, this Part does not apply to a person who is younger than 10 years or who, although 10 years or older, was younger than 10 years when the person is alleged to have committed the offence to which the relevant penalty notice relates.
- (3) This Part applies despite anything in the [Children \(Criminal Proceedings\) Act 1987](#), except that the provisions of this Part relating to the hearing or determination of an alleged offence on the annulment of a penalty notice enforcement order is subject to that Act.

54 Part not to apply to certain forestry penalty notices

This Part does not apply to or in relation to a penalty notice under section 46A (2) of the [Forestry Act 1916](#) if the amount payable under the notice includes any royalty as defined

in section 46A of that Act.

55 Regulations may exclude penalty notices from operation of Part

The regulations may provide that this Part does not apply to or in relation to any specified class or description of penalty notices.

56 Other provisions not affected

The provisions of this Part are supplemental to, and do not derogate from, the provisions of any Act that relate to proceedings that may be taken in respect of offences that are or may be the subject of penalty notice enforcement orders.

Part 4 Fine enforcement action

Division 1 Preliminary

57 Application and interpretation

- (1) This Part applies to the enforcement of:
 - (a) a fine imposed by a court following the making of a court fine enforcement order, and
 - (b) the amount payable under a penalty notice following the making of a penalty notice enforcement order.
- (2) A court fine enforcement order or a penalty notice enforcement order is referred to in this Act as a ***fine enforcement order***.
- (3) The person liable to pay the fine under a fine enforcement order is referred to in this Act as the ***fine defaulter***.
- (4) In this Part, a reference to a ***fine*** includes a reference to any enforcement costs payable under the fine enforcement order.

58 Summary of enforcement procedure

- (1) The following is a summary of the enforcement procedure under this Part following the making of a fine enforcement order:
 - (a) **Service of fine enforcement order**

Notice of the fine enforcement order is served on the fine defaulter and the fine defaulter is notified that if payment is not made enforcement action will be taken (see Division 2).
 - (b) **Driver licence or vehicle registration suspension or cancellation**

If the fine is not paid within the period specified, the Roads and Traffic Authority

suspends any driver licence, and may cancel any vehicle registration, of the fine defaulter. If the driver licence of the fine defaulter is suspended and the fine remains unpaid for 6 months, the Roads and Traffic Authority cancels that driver licence (see Division 3).

(c) **Civil enforcement**

If the fine defaulter does not have a driver licence or a registered vehicle or the fine remains unpaid after 6 months, civil action is taken to enforce the fine, namely, a property seizure order, a garnishee order or the registration of a charge on land owned by the fine defaulter (see Division 4).

(d) **Community service order**

If civil enforcement action is not successful, a community service order is served on the fine defaulter (see Division 5).

(e) **Imprisonment if failure to comply with community service order**

If the fine defaulter does not comply with the community service order, a warrant of commitment is issued to a police officer for the imprisonment of the fine defaulter (except in the case of children). The fine defaulter may apply to serve that period of imprisonment by way of periodic detention (see Division 6).

(f) **Fines payable by corporations**

The procedures for fine enforcement (other than community service orders and imprisonment) apply to fines payable by corporations (see Division 7).

(g) **Fine mitigation**

A fine defaulter may seek further time to pay and the State Debt Recovery Office may write off unpaid fines. Applications for review may be made to the Hardship Review Board (see Division 8).

(2) This section does not affect the provisions of this Part that it summarises.

Division 2 Service of fine enforcement order

59 Service on fine defaulter of notice of order

As soon as practicable after a fine enforcement order is made, the State Debt Recovery Office is to serve notice of the order on the fine defaulter.

60 What notice must say

(1) The notice of a fine enforcement order must inform the fine defaulter that:

(a) the order has been made, and

- (b) the defaulter has until the final date specified in the notice to pay the fine and enforcement costs specified in the notice, and
 - (c) if the payment is not made by that final date, further enforcement action will be taken against the defaulter to enforce the fine in accordance with this Part and, in particular, that the defaulter will be liable without further notice to have any driver licence or vehicle registration suspended or cancelled or property seized and sold, and
 - (d) if the payment is not made by that final date, further enforcement costs will be payable (indicating, except as provided in subsection (1A), each amount of those costs and circumstances in which it is payable), and
 - (e) review options are available relating to the fine enforcement order, including withdrawal, annulment, time to pay and the writing off of fines.
- (1A) The notice of a fine enforcement order may (but need not) contain information relating to the enforcement costs payable under section 76A when the Sheriff is required to take enforcement action.
- (2) If the regulations prescribe the form of such a notice, the notice must be in that form.
- (3) The inclusion in the notice of additional information and directions for the assistance or guidance of the person on whom it is served does not affect the validity of the notice.

61 Service of notice

- (1) Notice of a fine enforcement order may be served on a person:
- (a) personally, or
 - (b) by post, or
 - (c) by means of a document exchange, or
 - (d) by facsimile transmission or other electronic transmission, or
 - (e) by any other manner prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) The address for service of any such notice of a court fine enforcement order includes the address for service of the person in connection with the proceedings in which the fine was imposed.
- (3) The address for service of any such notice of a penalty notice enforcement order includes:
- (a) the address of the person shown on the relevant penalty notice or supplied by the person in connection with the service of the relevant penalty notice, or

- (b) if the relevant penalty notice was served on the person in his or her capacity as owner of a vehicle or vessel or was served by being left on a vehicle or vessel—the address shown in the records of the Roads and Traffic Authority or other public agency as the address of the owner of the vehicle or vessel at the time the relevant penalty notice was served, or
- (c) if the relevant penalty notice was served on the person in his or her capacity as the person driving or in charge of a vehicle or vessel—the address specified in a statutory declaration under section 38 as the address of the person in charge of the vehicle or vessel at the time of the alleged offence, or
- (d) the address provided for the person under section 117, if the State Debt Recovery Office is satisfied that it is the most recent address available for the person.

62 Time for service of notices by post

Despite any other provision of this Act, it is presumed that a notice of a fine enforcement order sent to a person by post is served on the person 7 days after it is posted, unless the person establishes that it was not served within that 7-day period.

63 Final date for payment in notices

- (1) The final date for payment in a notice of a fine enforcement order must be at least 21 days after it is served on the person.
- (2) Accordingly, a notice that is posted may specify a date that is at least 28 days after the penalty reminder notice is posted as the final date for making the payment concerned.

64 Extension of final date if notice takes more than 7 days

- (1) If a notice is served on a person more than 7 days after it was posted, the notice is not invalid merely because it specifies as the final date a date that is less than 21 days after it was served on the person.
- (2) In such a case however, the final date is extended to a date that is 21 days after the notice was served and the notice is taken to specify that date as the final date.

Division 3 Driver licence or vehicle registration suspension or cancellation

65 When enforcement action taken under this Division

- (1) Enforcement action is to be taken against a fine defaulter under this Division if:
 - (a) the fine defaulter has not paid a fine as required by the notice of the fine enforcement order served on the fine defaulter, or

- (b) the State Debt Recovery Office has extended the time for payment of a fine, and the fine defaulter has not paid the fine by the extended due date, or
 - (c) the State Debt Recovery Office has allowed the payment of a fine by instalments, and the fine defaulter has not paid every such instalment at the time specified by the Office.
- (2) The Roads and Traffic Authority is to take that enforcement action when it is directed by the State Debt Recovery Office to do so.
- (3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), enforcement action with respect to a fine defaulter's driver licence is not to be taken under this Division if:
- (a) the offence:
 - (i) in respect of which the fine concerned was imposed on the fine defaulter by a court, or
 - (ii) in respect of which the penalty notice from which the fine concerned arises was served on the fine defaulter,occurred while the fine defaulter was under the age of 18 years, and
 - (b) at the time that offence occurred, the fine defaulter was not, and had never been, the holder of a driver licence.
- (4) The Roads and Traffic Authority is to cease enforcement action when directed to do so by the State Debt Recovery Office.
- (5) The State Debt Recovery Office may direct the Roads and Traffic Authority to cease enforcement action under this Division even if a fine defaulter has not paid all outstanding fines under any fine enforcement order.

Note—

If the fine defaulter does not hold a driver licence or is not the registered owner of a vehicle, enforcement action can be taken instead under Division 4 (Civil enforcement).

66 Suspension or cancellation of driver licence

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority must, without further notice, suspend any driver licence of a fine defaulter against whom it is required to take enforcement action for the balance of the period of the licence.
- (1A) The Roads and Traffic Authority must suspend the driver licence of a fine defaulter even if the State Debt Recovery Office has:
- (a) granted an extension of time for the payment of the fine, or
 - (b) allowed the fine defaulter to pay the fine by instalments,

after requiring the Roads and Traffic Authority to take enforcement action.

- (2) If the driver licence is suspended and:
- (a) where the State Debt Recovery Office has granted the fine defaulter an extension of time for payment of the fine, the fine remains unpaid for at least 6 months after the extended due date, or
 - (b) where the State Debt Recovery Office has allowed the payment of a fine by instalments, an instalment remains unpaid for at least 6 months, or
 - (c) in any other case, the fine concerned remains unpaid for at least 6 months,
- the Roads and Traffic Authority must, if the State Debt Recovery Office so directs, cancel the licence.
- (3) The Roads and Traffic Authority is to remove the suspension of a driver licence if the State Debt Recovery Office so directs.
- (3A) The obligation to suspend the driver licence of a fine defaulter under subsection (1) extends to any licence that is already suspended when enforcement action is required to be taken under this Division. Accordingly, if the period of suspension comes to an end before the expiry of the licence, the Roads and Traffic Authority is then to take action under subsection (1) to further suspend the licence if the State Debt Recovery Office so directs.
- (4) The State Debt Recovery Office (or the Roads and Traffic Authority on its behalf) may notify the fine defaulter of the enforcement action taken under this section, but a failure to notify the fine defaulter does not affect that action.
- (5) Despite the suspension or cancellation of a driver licence under this section, a court or the Roads and Traffic Authority may exercise a function under another Act to suspend or cancel the licence.

67 Cancellation of vehicle registration

- (1) The Roads and Traffic Authority may, without further notice, cancel the registration of all or any motor vehicles of which a fine defaulter is the registered owner (or one of the registered owners) if:
- (a) it is required to take enforcement action against the fine defaulter but the fine defaulter does not hold a driver licence that is in force, and
 - (b) the cancellation of the registration of those motor vehicles is in accordance with any guidelines issued under section 120.
- (2) The Roads and Traffic Authority must cancel the registration of a vehicle in accordance with this section if the State Debt Recovery Office so directs.

- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office (or the Roads and Traffic Authority on its behalf) may notify the fine defaulter of the enforcement action taken under this section, but a failure to notify the fine defaulter does not affect that action.

68 Suspension of dealings with Roads and Traffic Authority

- (1) This section applies to a fine defaulter if:
- (a) the driver licence or vehicle registration of the fine defaulter is suspended or cancelled under this Division, or
 - (b) the Roads and Traffic Authority is required to take enforcement action against the fine defaulter under this Division, but any such action to suspend or cancel the driver licence or vehicle registration of the fine defaulter is not available.
- (2) The Roads and Traffic Authority must, unless the State Debt Recovery Office otherwise directs, refuse to exercise any of the following functions if this section applies to a fine defaulter:
- (a) the issue of a driver licence to the fine defaulter or the renewal of the driver licence of the fine defaulter,
 - (b) the registration of a vehicle in the name of the fine defaulter or the renewal of the registration of a vehicle of which the fine defaulter is the registered owner (or one of the registered owners),
 - (c) the transfer to another person of the registration of a vehicle of which the fine defaulter is the registered owner (or one of the registered owners),
 - (d) the issue of a number plate to the fine defaulter,
 - (e) the testing of the fine defaulter for the purpose of the issue of a driver licence,
 - (f) the issue of an unregistered vehicle permit to the fine defaulter,
 - (g) the registration of a motor vehicle in the name of the fine defaulter, or the renewal of registration of a motor vehicle in the name of the fine defaulter, under the *Recreation Vehicles Act 1983*,
 - (h) the issue of trader's plates to the fine defaulter,
 - (i) the processing of a number plate exchange for the fine defaulter,
 - (j) the reservation of a particular number plate for the fine defaulter,
 - (k) the ordering of a particular number plate, or a particular design of number plate, for the fine defaulter,
 - (l) the testing of the fine defaulter to ascertain the fine defaulter's eligibility for a

driver's licence,

(m) the booking of a driving test for the fine defaulter,

(n) the exercise of any other function of the Authority requested by the fine defaulter, being a function of a kind prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.

(3) If the Roads and Traffic Authority refuses to exercise any such function, it must, as soon as practicable, notify the fine defaulter that it has refused to do so because the person is a fine defaulter.

(3A) The Roads and Traffic Authority is not obliged to notify the fine defaulter of a refusal under subsection (3) if it has previously notified the fine defaulter of an earlier refusal under that subsection.

(4) This section ceases to apply to a fine defaulter if the State Debt Recovery Office so directs the Roads and Traffic Authority.

(5) This section applies despite any obligation of the Roads and Traffic Authority to exercise a function that is imposed by or under any other Act.

69 Interim restoration or reinstatement of licence or registration pending appeal etc

(1) A person may apply to the Roads and Traffic Authority for restoration or reinstatement of a driver licence suspended or cancelled, or vehicle registration cancelled, under this Division if:

(a) in the case of a penalty notice enforcement order—the person has lodged an application under Division 5 of Part 3 to have an application to annul the fine enforcement order concerned determined by a Local Court, or

(b) in the case of a court fine enforcement order—the person has lodged an appeal against the conviction or sentence in respect of which the fine concerned was imposed or the person has lodged an application under Part 2 of the *Crimes (Local Courts Appeal and Review) Act 2001* to annul that conviction or sentence,

and those proceedings have not been determined.

(2) The Roads and Traffic Authority must issue the person with a driver licence or certificate of vehicle registration, as the case requires, by way of restoration or reinstatement of the driver licence or vehicle registration suspended or cancelled under this Division.

(3) A driver licence or vehicle registration so restored or reinstated has effect, subject to this Act, the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Act 1997* and the *Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998*, until the date on which:

- (a) the licence would have expired if the licence had not been suspended or cancelled, or
 - (b) the registration would have expired if the registration had not been cancelled.
- (4) Any such restored or reinstated licence or registration may be suspended or cancelled under this Act following the determination of the proceedings referred to in subsection (1) or in connection with a different fine payable by the person.
- (5) A licence or registration cannot be restored or reinstated under this section if the licence or registration was also suspended or cancelled for reasons that do not give rise to a right of restoration or reinstatement under this section.

70 Effect of enforcement action on vehicle insurance

- (1) A vehicle insurance policy is not terminated by the cancellation of the registration of the vehicle under this Division or the suspension or cancellation of the driver licence of the driver of the vehicle under this Division.
- (2) A claim under a vehicle insurance policy cannot be refused merely because the vehicle's registration is cancelled under this Division or the driver licence of the driver of the vehicle is suspended or cancelled under this Division.
- (3) This section has effect despite anything to the contrary in a vehicle insurance policy or any other agreement.
- (4) In this section, a **vehicle insurance policy** is a policy of insurance in respect of damage or loss caused by or arising out of the use or operation of a vehicle (other than a third-party policy within the meaning of the [Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999](#)).

Note—

Section 14 of the [Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999](#) provides that a third-party policy under that Act relating to personal injury is not cancelled by the cancellation of the registration of a motor vehicle under this Division.

Division 4 Civil enforcement

71 When enforcement action taken under this Division

- (1) Enforcement action is to be taken against a fine defaulter under this Division if the fine defaulter has not paid the fine as required by the notice of the fine enforcement order served on the fine defaulter and:
- (a) enforcement action is not available under Division 3 to suspend or cancel the driver licence or vehicle registration of the fine defaulter, or
 - (b) the fine remains unpaid even though any available enforcement action was taken

under Division 3.

- (2) Enforcement action may be taken under this Division by means of a property seizure order, a garnishee order or a charge on land, or by all or any combination of those means.

Note—

If enforcement action under this Division has not been or is unlikely to be successful in satisfying the fine, enforcement action can be taken against the fine defaulter under Division 5 (Community service orders).

72 Order to seize property of fine defaulter

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may make an order for the seizure of the property of a fine defaulter for the purpose of levying the fine payable by the fine defaulter on that property. The order is called a **property seizure order**.

Note—

The *Interpretation Act 1987* defines property to include land as well as personal property.

- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office may make a property seizure order only if satisfied that enforcement action is authorised against the fine defaulter under this Division.
- (3) The order may be made in the absence of, and without notice to, the fine defaulter.
- (4) The order is to be directed to the Sheriff, and provided to the Sheriff by the State Debt Recovery Office for execution.
- (5) The order may be executed by the Sheriff or by the Sheriff's officers or by any court bailiffs authorised by the Sheriff.
- (6) A property seizure order operates as a writ of execution issued by a Local Court under section 58 of the *Local Courts (Civil Claims) Act 1970* and, for that purpose, the State Debt Recovery Office is taken to be the judgment creditor.
- (7) If the Sheriff is required to execute a property seizure order and a writ of execution issued by a court or to execute more than one property seizure order, the priority to be accorded to their execution is as follows:
 - (a) a property seizure order is to be executed before a writ of execution (even if the writ was issued before the order),
 - (b) property seizure orders are to be executed in the order in which they were received by the Sheriff (unless the Sheriff is directed by the State Debt Recovery Office to execute them in a different order).
- (8) The Sheriff is to return a property seizure order to the State Debt Recovery Office if the order has not been executed within 12 months after it was made. The Office is to cancel an order so returned, but nothing in this subsection prevents the issue of a

further order in the matter.

- (9) The Sheriff or other person executing a property seizure order is to cease executing the order if the order is cancelled under section 77.

73 Order to garnishee debts, wages or salary of fine defaulter

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may make an order that all debts due and accruing to a fine defaulter from any person specified in the order are attached for the purposes of satisfying the fine payable by the fine defaulter (including an order expressed to be for the continuous attachment of the wage or salary of the fine defaulter). The order is called a ***garnishee order***.
- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office may make a garnishee order only if satisfied that enforcement action is authorised against the fine defaulter under this Division.
- (3) The order may be made in the absence of, and without notice to, the fine defaulter.
- (4) The order operates as a garnishee order made by a Local Court under Division 3 of Part 5 of the *Local Courts (Civil Claims) Act 1970* and, for that purpose:
- (a) the State Debt Recovery Office is taken to be the judgment creditor, and
 - (b) an instalment order under section 48 of that Act includes an order under this Act by the State Debt Recovery Office for the payment of a fine by instalments, and
 - (c) such other modifications as are prescribed by the regulations have effect.

74 Registration of fine enforcement order as charge on land

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may apply to the Registrar-General for registration of a fine enforcement order in relation to any land owned by the fine defaulter (including any land owned jointly with another person).
- (2) An application may not be made under this section unless the amount payable under the order (or the total amount payable under the orders) to which the application relates exceeds \$1,000 or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations.
- (3) An application under this section must define the land to which it relates.
- (4) The Registrar-General must, on application under this section and lodgment of a copy of the fine enforcement order, register the order in relation to the land in such manner as the Registrar-General thinks fit.
- (5) There is created by force of this section, on the registration of the order, a charge on the land in relation to which the order is registered to secure the payment to the State Debt Recovery Office of the amount payable under the order.
- (6) Such a charge ceases to have effect in relation to the land:

- (a) on registration of the cancellation of the charge under section 77, or
- (b) on the sale or other disposition of the property with the consent of the State Debt Recovery Office, or
- (c) on the sale of the land to a purchaser in good faith for value who, at the time of the sale, has no notice of the charge,

whichever first occurs.

- (7) Such a charge is subject to every charge or encumbrance to which the land was subject immediately before the order was registered and, in the case of land under the provisions of the *Real Property Act 1900*, is subject to every prior mortgage, lease or other interest recorded in the Register kept under that Act.
- (8) Such a charge is not affected by any change of ownership of the land, except as provided by subsection (6).
- (9) If:
 - (a) such a charge is created on land of a particular kind and the provisions of any law of the State provide for the registration of title to, or charges over, land of that kind, and
 - (b) the charge is so registered,a person who purchases or otherwise acquires the land after the registration of the charge is, for the purposes of subsection (6), taken to have notice of the charge.
- (10) If such a charge relates to land under the provisions of the *Real Property Act 1900*, the charge has no effect until it is registered under that Act.

75 Examination of fine defaulter

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may issue an examination summons under this section for the purpose of enabling enforcement action to be taken under this Division.
- (2) An examination summons may be directed to:
 - (a) if the fine defaulter is a natural person—the fine defaulter, or
 - (b) if the fine defaulter is a corporation—an officer or former officer of the corporation.
- (3) An examination summons:
 - (a) is to summon the person to whom it is directed to attend before the Director or other specified officer of the State Debt Recovery Office, or before a specified officer of a court, at the place specified in the summons, and
 - (b) is to summon the person to so attend on a day and at a time specified in the

summons and thereafter as required by the Director or officer to be orally examined as to the fine defaulter's property and other means of satisfying the fine and generally as to the fine defaulter's financial circumstances, and

- (c) may require the person to produce to the Director or officer, at any such examination, any document or other thing in the person's possession or control that tends to show the fine defaulter's true financial circumstances.
- (4) An examination summons is to be served personally on the person to whom it is directed.
- (5) A person is not bound to produce any document or other thing that is not specified or sufficiently described in the examination summons or that the person would not be bound to produce on a subpoena for production in the Supreme Court.
- (6) An examination summons may not be issued to a person if that person has previously attended an examination within the previous 3 months pursuant to an examination summons under this section.
- (7) If a person who is issued with an examination summons under this section fails to attend in accordance with the summons, the State Debt Recovery Office may issue a warrant for the apprehension of the person and for the person to be brought before the Director or other specified officer of the State Debt Recovery Office, or before a specified officer of a court, for examination in accordance with this section.
- (8) Any such warrant of apprehension:
 - (a) may not be issued unless the State Debt Recovery Office is satisfied that the examination summons was duly served on the person, and
 - (b) may not be issued until at least 14 days after the person was notified (in the manner required for the service of a fine enforcement order) that a warrant will issue if the person does not attend for examination in accordance with this section, and
 - (c) is to be directed to the Sheriff and may be executed by the Sheriff or by the Sheriff's officers or by any court bailiffs authorised by the Sheriff, and
 - (d) may be executed with the assistance of any police officer.
- (9) If a person who is issued with an examination summons under this section:
 - (a) fails to attend in accordance with the summons, or
 - (b) without reasonable excuse, refuses to give evidence on oath after attending for examination, or
 - (c) gives false information at an examination, or

(d) without reasonable excuse, fails to produce any document or thing that the person is required by the summons to produce,

the State Debt Recovery Office may report the matter to the Supreme Court or District Court for determination. The court may deal with the matter as if it were a contempt of that court.

(10) An examination under this section may be adjourned:

(a) by the State Debt Recovery Office, in the case where a person is summoned to attend before the Director or other specified officer of the State Debt Recovery Office, or

(b) by a specified officer of a court, in the case where a person is summoned to attend before the specified officer,

and the State Debt Recovery Office or the specified officer, respectively, must notify the person concerned of the time and place for the adjourned examination.

(11) The State Debt Recovery Office may, instead of issuing an examination summons under this section, request the fine defaulter by notice to supply the relevant information for the purpose of enabling enforcement action to be taken under this Division. An examination summons may be issued if the notice is not complied with.

76 Power of entry to execute property seizure order

(1) The person executing a property seizure order may, at any reasonable time of the day or night, enter any premises for the purposes of executing the order.

(2) Subsection (1) does not authorise any such person to enter any part of premises used only for residential purposes without the permission of the occupier of the premises or the authority of a search warrant under this section.

(3) Any such person may apply to an authorised justice for the issue of a search warrant if the person believes on reasonable grounds that there may be property liable to seizure under the property seizure order in any premises.

(4) An authorised justice to whom any such application is made may, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so, issue a search warrant authorising any person who is executing the property seizure order to enter the premises and seize property in the premises in accordance with that or any other property seizure order.

(5) Part 3 of the [Search Warrants Act 1985](#) applies to a search warrant issued under this section.

(6) Without affecting the generality of section 18 of the [Search Warrants Act 1985](#), a police officer:

(a) may accompany a person executing a search warrant, and

(b) may take all reasonable steps to assist the person in the exercise of the person's functions under this section.

(7) This section does not authorise a person to seize property under any warrant of execution or order (other than a property seizure order) while the person is in premises in pursuance only of the authority conferred by this section.

(8) In this section:

authorised justice has the same meaning it has in the [Search Warrants Act 1985](#).

premises includes any structure, building, aircraft, vehicle, vessel or place (whether built upon or not).

76A Sheriff's additional costs of taking enforcement action under this Division

(1) The costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the Sheriff in taking enforcement action under this Division and approved by the State Debt Recovery Office are enforcement costs payable by the fine defaulter under the fine enforcement order.

(2) The amount of those costs and expenses is to be determined in accordance with the scale applicable to the enforcement of judgment debts under the [Local Courts \(Civil Claims\) Act 1970](#), but is to be reduced by any amount prescribed under section 16 (2) (c) or 44 (2) (c) as payable to the Consolidated Fund.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the State Debt Recovery Office has the functions of the registrar of the relevant court with respect to the approval of those costs and expenses.

(4) Enforcement costs recoverable under this section are payable to the Sheriff and not to the Consolidated Fund.

(5) The power of a Local Court to review a decision of a registrar of the court in respect of any such enforcement costs applies to a decision of the State Debt Recovery Office under this section.

Note—

Enforcement costs payable under a fine enforcement order form part of the fine—see section 57 (4).

77 Cancellation of property seizure, garnishee order or charge on land

(1) A property seizure order, garnishee order or charge on land under this Division is cancelled on the service of a community service order on the fine defaulter under Division 5 for the enforcement of the fine concerned.

(2) A property seizure order, garnishee order or charge on land under this Division is

cancelled on the payment of the fine concerned.

Note—

The writing off of the fine or the remission of the fine also operates as payment for the purpose of cancelling enforcement action—see sections 101 and 123.

- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office may cancel a property seizure order, garnishee order or charge on land at any time for any good reason.
- (4) The cancellation of a charge on land does not take effect until the Registrar-General registers the cancellation of the charge.

Division 5 Community service orders

78 When orders may be made

Enforcement action may be taken against a fine defaulter under this Division if:

- (a) the fine defaulter has not paid the fine as required by the notice of the fine enforcement order served on the fine defaulter, and
- (b) enforcement action under Division 4 has not been or is unlikely to be successful in satisfying the fine.

79 Making of community service order against fine defaulter

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may make a community service order requiring a fine defaulter to perform community service work in order to work off the amount of the fine that remains unpaid.
- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office may make the order only if satisfied that enforcement action is authorised against the fine defaulter under this Division.
- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office is not to make an order if satisfied that the person is not capable of performing work under an order or is otherwise not suitable to be engaged in such work.
- (4) The order may be made in the absence of, and without notice to, the fine defaulter.
- (5) The order may be made before the execution of a warrant under Division 4 and in anticipation that enforcement action may not be successful under that Division in satisfying the fine. The order is not to be served if that enforcement action is successful.
- (6) Subject to this Division:
 - (a) Divisions 1 and 4 of Part 7 (other than sections 92 and 93) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*, and
 - (b) Part 5 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* and any regulations

made for the purposes of that Part,

apply to a community service order under this section in the same way as they apply to a community service order under section 8 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*.

- (7) In the application of the provisions referred to in subsection (6) to a community service order under this section, a reference in those provisions to a court is taken to be a reference to the State Debt Recovery Office.
- (8) A community service order is to be in the form prescribed by the regulations.

80 Service and notice of order

- (1) As soon as practicable after making a community service order under this Division, the State Debt Recovery Office must cause a copy of the order and written notice of the order to be served on the fine defaulter.
- (2) The notice must be in the form prescribed by the regulations and must include the following information:
 - (a) the place at which, or person to whom, the fine defaulter must present himself or herself, in person, for the purpose of enabling the administration of the order to be commenced,
 - (b) the period within which the fine defaulter must present himself or herself.
- (3) Three copies of the notice must be served on the fine defaulter.
- (4) The fine defaulter must sign 3 copies of the notice in the presence of the person by whom it was served. Of the copies:
 - (a) one is to be kept by the fine defaulter, and
 - (b) one is to be served by the person who served the notice on the fine defaulter on the Commissioner of Corrective Services or the Director-General of the Department of Juvenile Justice, whichever is appropriate, and is to be kept by the Commissioner or Director-General, as appropriate, and
 - (c) one is to be served by that person on, and kept by, the State Debt Recovery Office.
- (5) A community service order is not invalidated by a failure to comply with this section or section 80A.

80A Provisions relating to service of orders and notice

- (1) The community service order and notice may be served on the fine defaulter only in accordance with the directions of the State Debt Recovery Office.

- (2) The order and 3 copies of the notice are to be served personally on the fine defaulter by the Sheriff or the Sheriff's officers or by a court bailiff authorised by the Sheriff.
- (3) The person who serves a community service order under this Division is required to explain the order to the fine defaulter on whom it is served.
- (4) The explanation is to be given in a language likely to be understood by the fine defaulter and is to include information as to the following matters:
 - (a) the requirements to be complied with by the fine defaulter under the order,
 - (b) the consequences that may follow if the fine defaulter fails to comply with those requirements,
 - (c) the fact that the order may be satisfied by payment of such part of the fine as has not been satisfied by the performance of community service work under the order.

81 Number of hours of community service work

- (1) The number of hours of community service work, specified in a community service order made under this Division, to be served by the fine defaulter is to be calculated at the rate of 1 hour for each \$15 of the amount of the fine that remains unpaid.
- (2) The number of hours specified in any one order must not exceed 300 hours (in the case of an adult) or 100 hours (in the case of a child). The fine defaulter may be subject to more than one order under this Division at any one time.
- (3) The number of hours specified in any one order is additional to any number of hours of community service work required to be performed by any other order under this Division or otherwise than under this Division. Accordingly, the total number of hours that a person may be required to perform at any one time under another Act does not apply to any hours required to be worked by an order under this Division.
- (3A) In the case of a person who is a child at the time a community service order is made under this Division, community service work may be performed concurrently for the purposes of that order and for the purposes of any other community service order made under this Division or otherwise than under this Division.
- (4) The regulations may increase the amount of \$15 mentioned in this section and section 83. If the regulations do so, the reference to the amount of \$15 in those sections is to be construed as a reference to that increased amount.
- (5) In this section:

adult means a person who is of or above the age of 18 years.

child means a person who is under the age of 18 years.

82 Satisfaction of orders by payment

If a fine defaulter who is subject to a community service order under this Division duly pays the fine (or the unsatisfied balance of the fine having regard to the number of hours of community service work already performed) the order is taken to be satisfied.

Note—

The writing off of the fine or the remission of the fine also operates as payment for the purpose of cancelling enforcement action—see sections 101 and 123. The amount of the fine includes enforcement costs—see section 57 (4).

83 Satisfaction of fine by community service

- (1) When a fine defaulter who is subject to a community service order under this Division duly complies with the order, the fine concerned is taken to be satisfied.
- (2) When a fine defaulter who is subject to a community service order under this Division duly serves part of the number of hours of community service work to be served under the order, the fine concerned is taken to be satisfied by the amount calculated at the rate of \$15 for each hour of community service work actually served.

84 Suspension of orders during imprisonment or detention

- (1) If a fine defaulter who is subject to a community service order under this Division is imprisoned while the order is in force, the order is suspended during that period of imprisonment. The period that the order is to be in force is extended, and not reduced, by the period that the order is suspended.
- (2) A fine defaulter is imprisoned for the purposes of this section if the fine defaulter is:
 - (a) in a correctional centre on remand or pursuant to a sentence of imprisonment, or
 - (b) in a detention centre (within the meaning of the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*) on remand or pursuant to a detention order,but not if the fine defaulter is serving a sentence of periodic detention.

85 Provisions relating to orders

- (1) An appeal does not lie in respect of the making of a community service order under this Division or the failure to make such an order.
- (2), (3) (Repealed)

Note—

Provisions of the *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987* apply to the order if the fine defaulter is a person to whom that Act applies. In any other case, provisions of Part 5 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* apply to the order.

86 Revocation of community service order

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may revoke a community service order made under this Division if it is satisfied that the fine defaulter who is subject to the order has failed, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the order or the requirements imposed with respect to the order by or under the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* or the *Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987* as the case requires.
- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office is not to revoke an order under subsection (1) unless the relevant assigned officer (within the meaning of that Act) has reported the breach to the Office. The Office may decide not to revoke an order following the report of a breach of the order to the Office.
- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office may revoke a community service order made under this Division if it is satisfied, following a report by the assigned officer, that the fine defaulter is not capable of performing work under the order or is otherwise not suitable to be engaged in such work.
- (4) The State Debt Recovery Office may, when revoking an order, also revoke other community service orders that have been made against the fine defaulter.
- (5) Notice of the revocation is to be served on the fine defaulter. The notice may be served in the same way as notice of a fine enforcement order may be served.
- (6) The fine defaulter may, within the time specified in the notice, apply in writing to the State Debt Recovery Office for a review of the revocation. The Office may, if satisfied that the order was not breached or that the breach should be excused, reverse its decision to revoke the community service order.
- (7) The revocation of a community service order does not take effect:
 - (a) until the expiry of the period during which an application for review of the revocation may be made, or
 - (b) if an application for review is duly made—unless and until the application is refused.
- (8) The revocation of an order (or the review of any such revocation) may be made or held in the absence of, and without notice to, the fine defaulter.
- (9) A decision of the State Debt Recovery Office under this section is (subject to this section) final and is not subject to appeal.

Division 6 Imprisonment

87 Imprisonment following breach of community service order

- (1) After a community service order is revoked under section 86 (1), the State Debt Recovery Office may by warrant commit the fine defaulter to a correctional centre to be kept there according to the terms of the warrant for the period of imprisonment calculated in accordance with this Division, unless the fine defaulter sooner pays the relevant outstanding fine.
- (2) A single warrant may commit the fine defaulter for 2 or more periods of imprisonment if 2 or more community service orders made against the fine defaulter have been revoked.
 - (2A) A warrant:
 - (a) must be in the prescribed form, and
 - (b) is sufficient authority for any police officer to convey the fine defaulter to the correctional centre identified in the warrant, and
 - (c) is sufficient authority for the governor of the correctional centre to keep the fine defaulter in his or her custody for the period of imprisonment calculated in accordance with this Division.
- (3) This section is subject to the other provisions of this Division.

88 The “relevant outstanding fine”

- (1) For the purposes of this Division, the **relevant outstanding fine** at any time is the amount of the fine under the relevant fine enforcement order that remains unpaid at that time.

Note—

The amount of the fine includes enforcement costs—see section 57 (4).

- (2) In calculating the amount remaining unpaid, account is to be taken of any satisfaction of the fine by service under a community service order under Division 5 or by service of any part of the period of imprisonment under this Division.

Note—

The writing off of the fine or the remission of the fine also operates as payment for the purpose of cancelling enforcement action—see sections 101 and 123.

89 Periodic detention

- (1) A fine defaulter who is committed to a correctional centre by warrant under this Division may apply to the Commissioner of Corrective Services for an order that the fine defaulter’s period of imprisonment be served by way of periodic detention. An

application may be made in anticipation of the issue of a warrant.

- (2) The Commissioner of Corrective Services may, on an application under this section, order that the fine defaulter serve the period of imprisonment under a warrant under this Division by way of periodic detention.
- (3) A fine defaulter is not eligible to serve a period of imprisonment by way of periodic detention:
 - (a) if the period of imprisonment is less than the minimum period determined in the guidelines under section 120 as appropriate to be served by way of periodic detention, or
 - (b) (Repealed)
 - (c) if the fine defaulter is remanded to or imprisoned in a correctional centre (except as a periodic detainee), or
 - (d) if the fine payable by the fine defaulter is for an offence committed while serving a period of imprisonment by way of periodic detention, or
 - (e) if an earlier order for periodic detention (whether under this Act or the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*) has been revoked because the fine defaulter has failed to serve a sentence of imprisonment in accordance with the requirements of the order, or
 - (f) in any other circumstances prescribed by the regulations.
- (4) On making an order under this section, the warrant committing the fine defaulter to a correctional centre is subject to the terms of the order.
- (5) The decision whether or not to grant an application under this section is at the discretion of the Commissioner of Corrective Services, and no appeal lies against a decision not to grant an application in a particular case.
- (6) The Commissioner of Corrective Services is to serve notice on the State Debt Recovery Office of the making or revocation of an order under this section.
- (7) The State Debt Recovery Office may replace the original warrant in respect of which the order was made with a fresh warrant in connection with the outstanding fine at the time.
- (8) Subject to this section:
 - (a) Division 1 of Part 5, section 66 and Divisions 3 and 4 (other than sections 71 and 72) of Part 5 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*, and
 - (b) Parts 3 and 7 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*, and

regulations made under those Parts,

apply to a periodic detention order under this section in the same way as they apply to a periodic detention order under section 6 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*.

- (9) In the application of those provisions to a periodic detention order under this section, a reference in those provisions to a court is taken to be a reference to the Commissioner of Corrective Services.
- (10) The functions of the Parole Board under Part 7 of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* with respect to the revocation of periodic detention orders are, in relation to a periodic detention order under this Division, to be exercised by the Commissioner of Corrective Services.

89A Service and notice of order for periodic detention

- (1) As soon as practicable after making an order under this Division (a **periodic detention order**), the Commissioner of Corrective Services must cause a copy of the order and written notice of the order to be served on the fine defaulter, the State Debt Recovery Office and the governor of the periodic detention centre to which the fine defaulter is committed to serve the sentence.
- (2) The notice must be in the form prescribed by the regulations and must include the following information:
 - (a) the periodic detention centre to which the fine defaulter must report,
 - (b) the date on which, and the time at which, the fine defaulter is first to report to the periodic detention centre, and
 - (c) the day of the week on which, and the time at which, the fine defaulter is subsequently to report to the periodic detention centre during the term of the fine defaulter's sentence of imprisonment.
- (3) Three copies of the notice must be served on the fine defaulter.
- (4) The fine defaulter must sign 3 copies of the notice in the presence of the person by whom it was served. Of the copies:
 - (a) one is to be kept by the fine defaulter, and
 - (b) one is to be served by the person who served the notice on the fine defaulter on the governor of the periodic detention centre to which the fine defaulter is committed and is to be kept by that governor, and
 - (c) one is to be served by that person on, and kept by, the Commissioner of Corrective Services.

- (5) An order under section 89 is not invalidated by a failure to comply with this section or section 89B.

89B Provisions relating to service

- (1) The periodic detention order and notice may be served on the fine defaulter only in accordance with the directions of the Commissioner of Corrective Services.
- (2) The order and 3 copies of the notice are to be served personally on the fine defaulter by the Sheriff or the Sheriff's officers or by a court bailiff authorised by the Sheriff.
- (3) The person who serves a periodic detention order under this Division is required to explain the order to the fine defaulter on whom it is served.
- (4) The explanation is to be given in a language likely to be understood by the fine defaulter and is to include information as to the following matters:
 - (a) the requirements to be complied with by the fine defaulter under the order,
 - (b) the consequences that may follow if the fine defaulter fails to comply with those requirements,
 - (c) the fact that the order may be satisfied by payment of such part of the fine as has not been satisfied by the period of imprisonment served under the order.

90 Calculation of period of imprisonment under warrant

- (1) The period of imprisonment for the purposes of a warrant under this Division is to be calculated on the basis of the amount of the relevant outstanding fine, as follows:
 - (a) the period is to be 1 day for each \$120 (or part of \$120) of the relevant outstanding fine,
 - (b) the period is not to be less than 1 day,
 - (c) the period is not to exceed 3 months.
- (2) The period of imprisonment for the purposes of a warrant under this Division that is to be served by way of periodic detention is to contain detention periods (within the meaning of the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999*), as follows:
 - (a) the period is to contain the number of detention periods calculated at the rate of 1 detention period for each 2 days of imprisonment calculated under subsection (1),
 - (b) the period is not to contain less than 1 detention period,
 - (c) the period is not to contain more than 45 detention periods,
 - (d) if orders are made at the same time for the periods of imprisonment under 2 or more warrants under this Division to be served by way of periodic detention—the

total number of detention periods under those orders is to be calculated at the rate of 1 detention period for each 2 days of the total periods of imprisonment under those warrants.

- (3) The regulations may increase the amount of \$120 mentioned in this section and section 91. If the regulations do so, the references to the amount of \$120 in this section and section 91 are to be construed as references to that increased amount.

91 Satisfaction of fine by imprisonment

- (1) When a fine defaulter duly serves the total period of imprisonment under a warrant under this Division, the fine concerned is taken to be satisfied.
- (2) When a fine defaulter duly serves part of the period of imprisonment under a warrant under this Division, the fine concerned is then taken to be satisfied by the amount calculated at the rate of \$120 for each day actually served or twice that amount for each detention period served by way of periodic detention, as the case requires.

92 Special provision relating to children

- (1) A fine defaulter cannot be committed to a correctional centre or a detention centre by a warrant under this Division if the person:
 - (a) was under 18 years of age when the offence concerned was committed, and
 - (b) was under 21 years of age at the time the person was charged with the offence or issued with a penalty notice (as the case requires).
- (2) If a further fine enforcement order is made against the fine defaulter and the person was 18 years of age or older at the time the offence concerned was committed, the fine defaulter may be committed to a correctional centre in respect of the earlier fine enforcement order despite subsection (1) if the fine defaulter is committed to a correctional centre in respect of that further fine enforcement order.

93 Terms under warrants to be served consecutively

- (1) If a fine defaulter is committed to 2 or more terms of imprisonment by one or more warrants of commitment under this Division, the terms are to be served consecutively, not concurrently.
- (2) This section extends to imprisonment served by way of periodic detention.

94 Terms under warrants to be served concurrently with other non-fine default imprisonment

- (1) A term of imprisonment (or consecutive terms) for which a fine defaulter has been committed by a warrant under this Division may be served concurrently with any imprisonment of the fine defaulter arising otherwise than by any such warrant.

(2) This section extends to imprisonment served by way of periodic detention.

95 Execution of warrant

- (1) If the fine defaulter who is committed to a correctional centre by a warrant under this Division is already in a correctional centre, the warrant may be executed by the officer in charge of the correctional centre or a person authorised by that officer. The warrant is executed by serving a copy of the warrant on the fine defaulter.
- (2) Notice is not required to be given to a fine defaulter of the proposed execution of a warrant under this Division.
- (3) However, a police officer executing a warrant under this Division may, in accordance with guidelines issued under section 120 or (subject to any such guidelines) issued by the Commissioner of Police, delay the execution of the warrant to enable the fine defaulter to pay the relevant outstanding fine or seek the cancellation of the warrant.
- (4) A police officer is to cease executing a warrant under this Division if the fine defaulter pays the relevant outstanding fine (whether to the police officer or in any other manner authorised by this Act).
- (5) The State Debt Recovery Office may cancel a warrant issued under this Division if it considers that it is appropriate to do so.

96 Discharge from custody

A fine defaulter is to be discharged from the correctional centre to which the fine defaulter has been committed by a warrant under this Division if the fine defaulter duly pays the relevant outstanding fine, unless in the correctional centre in respect of another matter.

Note—

The relevant outstanding fine is progressively reduced by service of part of the period of imprisonment—see section 88.

97 Regulations as to warrants

The regulations may make provision for or with respect to warrants under this Division, including:

- (a) the form of any such warrants, or
- (b) the execution of any such warrants.

Division 7 Bodies corporate

98 Application of civil and other enforcement procedures

Enforcement action under this Part extends to a fine enforcement order in respect of a fine defaulter that is a body corporate, other than enforcement action under Division 5

(Community service orders) and Division 6 (Imprisonment).

99 Modification of enforcement procedures

If the fine defaulter is a body corporate, enforcement action may be taken under Division 4 (Civil enforcement) before or without taking enforcement action under Division 3 (Driver licence or vehicle registration suspension or cancellation).

Division 8 Miscellaneous

100 Time to pay

- (1) After a fine enforcement order is made and before a community service order is issued in the matter, an application for time to pay the fine may be made to the State Debt Recovery Office by the fine defaulter.
- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office may, by order, allow further time to pay the fine if satisfied the application is genuine and it appears expedient to do so.
- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office may:
 - (a) extend the time for payment of the whole fine, or
 - (b) allow the fine to be paid by instalments of such amounts, and at such times, as the Office specifies.
- (4) If an instalment of a fine is not paid by the due date, the remaining instalments then become due and payable unless the State Debt Recovery Office otherwise orders.
- (5) Further enforcement action under this Part is suspended if an application for time to pay is granted and payment of the fine is made in accordance with the order of the State Debt Recovery Office.

Note—

A person, who has been granted an extension of time for payment of a fine or has been allowed to pay a fine by instalments after the State Debt Recovery Office has, in accordance with section 65, directed that the Roads and Traffic Authority take enforcement action, is not entitled to have a driver licence suspension lifted until the fine is paid in full.

- (6) However, the Sheriff is not required to return any property seized under a property seizure order under Division 4, and a charge on land created under that Division need not be cancelled, until the fine is paid.

101 Unpaid fines may be written off

- (1) After a fine enforcement order is made and before a community service order is issued in the matter, an application to have the fine written off may be made to the State Debt Recovery Office by the fine defaulter.
 - (1A) The State Debt Recovery Office may, on the application of a fine defaulter or at its

own discretion, write off an unpaid fine:

(a) if it is satisfied that, due to any or all of the financial, medical or personal circumstances of the fine defaulter:

(i) the fine defaulter does not have sufficient means to pay the fine and is not likely to have sufficient means to pay the fine, and

(ii) enforcement action under Division 4 has not been or is unlikely to be successful in satisfying the fine, and

(iii) the fine defaulter is not suitable to be subject to a community service order under Division 5, or

(b) in accordance with guidelines issued under section 120.

(1B) The State Debt Recovery Office must write off an unpaid fine if it is directed to do so by the Hardship Review Board.

(2) Any such guidelines are to extend to fine defaulters who do not have the means to pay the fine or sufficient property for civil enforcement and who are not suitable to undertake work under a community service order.

(3) An unpaid fine that is written off is taken to have been paid for the purpose of cancelling enforcement action under this Act.

(4) Despite subsection (3), an unpaid fine that is written off under this section may be reinstated and enforcement action may be recommenced by the State Debt Recovery Office in respect of the fine defaulter at any time within 5 years after it is written off if:

(a) a further fine enforcement order is made against the fine defaulter, or

(b) the State Debt Recovery Office is satisfied that the fine defaulter has sufficient means to pay the fine, that enforcement action is likely to be successful in satisfying the fine or that the fine defaulter is suitable to be subject to a community service order.

101A Hardship Review Board

(1) There is to be a Hardship Review Board consisting of:

(a) the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, and

(b) the Secretary of the Treasury, and

(c) the Director-General of the Attorney General's Department.

(2) A member of the Hardship Review Board may appoint a person to act in the place of the member at meetings of the Board.

- (3) An acting member, while so acting, has the functions of, and is taken to be, a member of the Hardship Review Board.

101B Reviews by Hardship Review Board

- (1) The Hardship Review Board may, on the application of a fine defaulter, review a decision by the State Debt Recovery Office to refuse an application by a fine defaulter for time to pay a fine or to have a fine written off.
- (2) A fine defaulter may not make more than one application under this section in relation to the same fine.
- (3) The Hardship Review Board may determine the procedure for a review and may conduct a review in the absence of the parties.
- (4) The State Debt Recovery Office may suspend enforcement action against a fine defaulter who makes an application under this section but is not required to do so unless given a direction under this section.
- (5) The Hardship Review Board may direct that enforcement action under this Part against a fine defaulter be suspended pending its review, if it thinks it appropriate in the circumstances.
- (6) On a review, the Hardship Review Board may direct the State Debt Recovery Office to allow a fine defaulter further time to pay a fine under section 100, or to write off an unpaid fine under section 101.
- (7) The Hardship Review Board may give a direction under this section if it thinks it is appropriate to do so having regard to the circumstances of the fine defaulter and the matters set out in section 100 or section 101 (1A) (a) and the guidelines issued under section 120, as the case requires.

101C Disclosure of information by Hardship Review Board

The Hardship Review Board, a member of the Board, or a person otherwise engaged in the administration of this section or section 101A or 101B, may disclose to the Director or a member of staff of the State Debt Recovery Office information obtained in the administration of this section or section 101A or 101B.

102 Disposition of money paid by or recovered from fine defaulters

- (1) Any fine paid by a fine defaulter after the making of a fine enforcement order is payable to the State Debt Recovery Office.
- (2) However, with the approval of that Office, any fine paid to another person or body may be directly credited to the Consolidated Fund or other account, or retained, in accordance with this or any other Act or law.

Note—

Fines include enforcement costs—see section 57 (4).

103 Electronic transmission of documents

- (1) The following directions, orders and warrants under this Part may be transmitted electronically to the persons to whom they are given or directed:
 - (a) a direction of the State Debt Recovery Office to the Roads and Traffic Authority under Division 3,
 - (b) a property seizure order or warrant of apprehension directed to the Sheriff under Division 4,
 - (b1) a garnishee order or examination summons under Division 4, or a summons requiring a garnishee under such a garnishee order to show cause, given to the Sheriff for service,
 - (c) a community service order given to the Sheriff for service under Division 5,
 - (d) a warrant of commitment to a correctional centre directed to a police officer or other officer under Division 6.
- (2) For the purpose of executing any such order or warrant, the Sheriff or other officer to whom the order or warrant is so transmitted is to cause a copy of the order or warrant to be converted into written form and to be endorsed with the following words:

This document has been transmitted electronically by the State Debt Recovery Office in accordance with section 103 of the *Fines Act 1996*.

104 Power of person executing order or warrant to demand name and address

- (1) The Sheriff or other person executing an order or warrant under this Part may require a person whom the Sheriff or other person suspects on reasonable grounds to be the fine defaulter to state his or her full name and residential address and to produce evidence of his or her identity.
- (2) A person is not required to comply with such a requirement unless the person was warned on that occasion that a failure to comply is an offence.
- (3) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with such a requirement is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

Part 5 Reciprocal enforcement of fines against bodies corporate

105 Definitions

In this Part:

conviction means a conviction or order entered or made (before or after the commencement of this Part) in proceedings for an offence, including a penalty notice enforcement order or similar order.

fine includes:

- (a) a pecuniary penalty, pecuniary forfeiture and pecuniary compensation, and
- (b) fees, charges and costs payable by a body corporate under an order made in proceedings in which the conviction was entered in respect of the body corporate.

New South Wales fine means a fine payable under a conviction of a New South Wales court (including a fine payable under a penalty notice enforcement order under this Act).

reciprocating court means a court, or a court included in a class of court, declared under section 106 to be a reciprocating court or a class of reciprocating courts.

relevant officer of a reciprocating court means the registrar or other corresponding officer of the court.

State includes a Territory.

106 Declaration of reciprocating court

Where another State has laws providing for enforcement in that State of a New South Wales fine against a body corporate, the regulations may:

- (a) declare a court that exercises criminal jurisdiction in that State to be a reciprocating court, or
- (b) declare a class of courts that exercise criminal jurisdiction in that State to be a class of reciprocating courts.

107 Enforcement of fine imposed by reciprocating court

(1) Where, under a conviction of a reciprocating court, a fine is payable by a body corporate having or appearing to have property in New South Wales and the State Debt Recovery Office receives a request in writing from the relevant officer of the reciprocating court for the enforcement of the fine, accompanied by:

- (a) a copy, certified by the relevant officer to be correct, of the conviction, and
- (b) a certificate under the hand of the relevant officer specifying the amount of the fine that remains unpaid,

the Office is required:

- (c) to register the certified copy of the conviction, and
- (d) to note, on the certified copy, the date of registration.

(2) On registration of a conviction:

- (a) the conviction is, for the purposes of this Part, taken to be a conviction of a New South Wales court, and
- (b) the State Debt Recovery Office is required to make a fine enforcement order under this Act for the purpose of recovering the amount specified as unpaid in the certificate relating to conviction.

(3) Where a request is made under this section in respect of a fine payable under a conviction of a reciprocating court and the State Debt Recovery Office, after the request, receives a notification from the relevant officer of the reciprocating court of payment of an amount in satisfaction in whole or in part of the amount of the fine:

- (a) the Office must record particulars of the payment, and
- (b) the payment is, for the purposes of enforcement action under this Act, taken to be payment in pursuance of the fine enforcement order made under this section.

(4) The State Debt Recovery Office is required to remit to the relevant officer of the reciprocating court concerned the amount of any fine recovered in pursuance of a fine enforcement order made under this section.

(5) For the purposes of this section, a document that purports to have been signed by the relevant officer of a reciprocating court is taken to have been so signed unless the contrary is proved.

108 Enforcement of New South Wales fine by reciprocating court

(1) Where another State has laws providing for enforcement in that State of a New South Wales fine against a body corporate, the State Debt Recovery Office may (on its own behalf or on behalf of the registrar of a New South Wales court) send a request in writing to the relevant officer of the reciprocating court for the enforcement of the New South Wales fine.

(2) Any amount received from a reciprocating court by the State Debt Recovery Office or the registrar of a court in satisfaction of the whole or part of a New South Wales fine is to be applied as if the amount had been paid to the Office or registrar by the body corporate by which the fine was payable in satisfaction of the whole or part of the fine.

(3) If:

- (a) a request has been made under subsection (1), and

- (b) an amount is received by the State Debt Recovery Office (otherwise than from the relevant officer of the reciprocating court to whom the request was made) in satisfaction of the whole or part of the fine,

the Office is required, as soon as practicable, to notify that relevant officer of the amount of the payment.

Part 6 Civil enforcement—costs and other payments

109 Application

- (1) This Part applies to the enforcement of payment of the following (referred to in this Part as **ancillary money orders**):
 - (a) any witnesses' expenses payable by a person under an order made by a court in proceedings for an offence that were brought otherwise than by a law enforcement officer,
 - (b) any costs (including expenses or disbursements) payable by a person under an order made by a court in proceedings for an offence that were brought otherwise than by a law enforcement officer,
 - (c) any monetary forfeiture or monetary compensation made or awarded by a court in proceedings for an offence,
 - (d) any other amounts payable under an order of a court of a kind prescribed by the regulations,

but does not apply to the enforcement of payment of any amount that is a fine within the meaning of section 4.

- (2) In this section, **proceedings for an offence** includes:
 - (a) proceedings for an apprehended violence order, and
 - (b) proceedings on appeal in respect of proceedings for an offence.

109A Payment of ancillary money orders

Division 2 of Part 2 applies to the payment of ancillary money orders in the same way as it applies to the payment of fines.

110 Enforcement as civil judgments

- (1) Subject to section 109A, an ancillary money order is enforceable as if it were a judgment for the payment of that amount under the [Local Courts \(Civil Claims\) Act 1970](#).
- (2) The order may be entered in the records of any Local Court on which jurisdiction is

conferred by that Act as a judgment given in that Local Court for a debt due to the person to whom the payment is required to be made by that order.

- (3) The order may be so entered even though the order was made by a court that is not a Local Court or the amount ordered to be paid exceeds the jurisdictional limit of a Local Court.
- (4) The method of enforcement provided by this section does not affect any other remedy for enforcement provided by any other Act or law.

Part 7 Enforcement of bail agreements

111 Definitions

In this Part:

forfeited bail money means unpaid bail money the subject of a forfeiture order under Part 7A of the *Bail Act 1978*.

forfeited bail security means bail security given in relation to bail money the subject of a forfeiture order under Part 7A of the *Bail Act 1978*.

112 Enforcement of forfeited bail money

- (1) Part 4 (Fine enforcement action) applies to forfeited bail money as if the amount payable were a fine imposed by a court for an offence.
- (2) The application of that Part is subject to the following:
 - (a) the State Debt Recovery Office is to make a court fine enforcement order for the purposes of taking enforcement action (being a form of order that is appropriate to the circumstances of the case),
 - (b) enforcement costs are not payable on the making of the order,
 - (b1) if the State Debt Recovery Office is served with a copy of an application or appeal duly made under section 53K or 53N of the *Bail Act 1978* in relation to forfeited bail money, action under Part 4 may not be commenced or continued until proceedings on the application or appeal are finally determined,
 - (c) all other necessary or prescribed modifications to the application of that Part apply.

112A Enforcement of forfeited bail security

- (1) Section 72 applies to a forfeited bail security as if the bail money in relation to which it is given were a fine imposed by a court for an offence.
- (2) The application of that section is subject to the following:

- (a) if the State Debt Recovery Office is served with a copy of an application or appeal duly made under section 53K or 53N of the *Bail Act 1978* in relation to the bail money for which the forfeited bail security is given, action under section 72 may not be commenced or continued until proceedings on the application or appeal are finally determined,
- (b) all other necessary or prescribed modifications to the application of that section apply.

Part 8 State Debt Recovery Office

113 Establishment of State Debt Recovery Office

- (1) There is established by this Act a body corporate with the corporate name of the State Debt Recovery Office.
- (2) The Office is a statutory body representing the Crown.
- (3) The Office is, for the purposes of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* or any other prescribed Act, taken to be part of the Treasury.

114 Functions of Office

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office has the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under this or any other Act.
 - (1A) The Office:
 - (a) may enter into arrangements with persons who issue penalty notices, or on whose behalf penalty notices are issued, for or with respect to the receipt, recovery and collection of amounts payable under those notices, including the issuing of courtesy letters, and
 - (b) may receive, recover and collect, and may otherwise deal with, those amounts in accordance with those arrangements, and
 - (c) may do all such things as may be necessary or convenient for the exercise of the functions referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b), including:
 - (i) the issuing of court attendance notices, and
 - (ii) the demanding and recovering of fees and charges with respect to the provision of its services.
- (2) The Office has the function of administering the following:
 - (a) the making of fine enforcement orders,

- (b) the taking of enforcement action against fine defaulters under this Act,
- (c) the write-off policy for outstanding fines,
- (d) the receipt and collection of fines.

(3) The Office may act for the State for the purpose of recovering debts or other amounts due to the State. In this subsection, **State** includes the Crown or any authority of the State.

115 Director and other staff of Office

A Director and other staff of the State Debt Recovery Office are to be employed under Part 2 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1988*.

116 Management of Office

- (1) The affairs of the State Debt Recovery Office are to be managed and controlled by the Director of the Office in accordance with this Act and the regulations and the guidelines in force under section 120. Any act, matter or thing done in the name of, or on behalf of, the Office by the Director is taken to have been done by the Office.
- (2) The functions of the Office of making or issuing orders or warrants under this Act are to be exercised by the Director of the Office or other staff of the Office who are authorised by the Director for the purposes of this section. Any such functions exercised by other staff may be exercised in their own names or in the name of the Director.
- (3) The Director and other staff have, in connection with the making or issue of an order or warrant under this Act, the same immunities and protections as officers of a court.

117 Access to information by Office

- (1) Police officers or other members of the Police Service and government agencies are authorised and required to provide the State Debt Recovery Office, on request, with available information about the criminal record, address or assets of a fine defaulter for the purposes of the Office taking action against the person to enforce payment of a fine.
- (2) In this section, **government agency** includes:
 - (a) the Roads and Traffic Authority, and
 - (b) a State owned corporation.

117A Disclosure of information by State Debt Recovery Office

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office, the Director of the Office or a member of the staff of the Office may disclose personal information obtained in relation to a fine defaulter in

the administration of this Act to:

- (a) a government agency that is a prosecuting authority in relation to the offence concerned or on whose behalf the offence was prosecuted, or
 - (b) a government agency on whose behalf the penalty notice for the offence concerned was issued, or
 - (c) the Hardship Review Board.
- (2) Information may be disclosed to an agency referred to in subsection (1) (a) or (b) only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary to monitor the status of outstanding fines.

118 Registration of fine enforcement orders

The State Debt Recovery Office is to register each fine enforcement order made by it, and to record details of payment of the fine and the taking of enforcement action.

Part 9 Miscellaneous

119 Act binds Crown

This Act binds the Crown in right of New South Wales and, in so far as the legislative power of Parliament permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.

120 Guidelines on exercise of functions under this Act

- (1) The Minister may issue guidelines (not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations) with respect to the following:
- (a) the exercise by the State Debt Recovery Office of its functions under this Act (including writing off unpaid fines, the issue of fine enforcement orders or community service orders and the taking of other enforcement action under this Act),
 - (b) the exercise by registrars of courts of their functions under this Act (including the determination of time for payment of fines imposed by courts),
 - (c) the exercise by the Roads and Traffic Authority, the Sheriff and other persons of their functions under this Act in connection with the taking of enforcement action,
 - (d) the exercise by the Commissioner of Corrective Services of the function under this Act of making an order that a fine defaulter serve a period of imprisonment by way of periodic detention.
- (2) The Minister is required to make the guidelines public. However, the Minister is not required to make public the guidelines on writing off unpaid fines.
- (3) The guidelines are required to be complied with. However, a failure to comply with a

guideline does not affect the validity of any proceedings, decision, order or warrant.

- (4) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to the issue and publication of the guidelines.

121 Fines payable into Consolidated Fund (cf *Fines and Penalties Act 1901* sec 5 (1))

- (1) A fine or other penalty imposed or authorised to be imposed by or under any Act is, when recovered, payable into the Consolidated Fund.
- (2) This section is subject to the provisions of any other Act (whether enacted before or after this Act).

Note—

Penalty is defined in the *Interpretation Act 1987* to include forfeiture or punishment.

122 Payment of share of fine to prosecutor (cf *Fines and Penalties Act 1901* sec 5 (3))

- (1) This section applies where:
 - (a) the Act imposing or authorising the imposition of a fine or other penalty does not make any provisions for its application when recovered, and
 - (b) the prosecutor is not a police officer.
- (2) The court before which proceedings are taken to recover any such fine or other penalty may direct that such portion of it (not exceeding one-half) is to be paid to the prosecutor.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, **fine** does not include an amount of the kind referred to in section 4 (1) (e) or (f).

122A Payment of law enforcement officers' costs and expenses

- (1) This section applies in respect of proceedings for an offence that are brought by a law enforcement officer.
- (2) The court before which such proceedings are brought may, when making an order of the kind referred to in section 4 (1) (e) or (f), direct the amount to which the order relates be paid to the law enforcement officer (or to the law enforcement agency on whose behalf the proceedings were brought) in full or in such portion as may be determined by the court.
- (3) This section has effect despite section 121.

123 Remission of fines or other penalties

- (1) The Governor may remit, in whole or in part, any fine or other penalty imposed on a convicted offender under any Act.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Royal prerogative of mercy may be extended to a person imprisoned for the non-payment of a pecuniary fine or other penalty even though it was payable in whole or in part to a person other than the Crown.
- (3) A fine that is remitted is taken to have been paid for the purpose of cancelling enforcement action under this Act.
- (4) This section extends to all fines and other penalties (including an order for the payment of compensation by a person found guilty of an offence).

Note—

Penalty is defined in the [Interpretation Act 1987](#) to include forfeiture and punishment and accordingly is not limited to the payment of money.

124 Royal prerogative preserved

Nothing in this Act limits or affects in any manner the Royal prerogative of mercy or any entitlement of a prisoner to be discharged or released from prison under any other Act.

125 Abolition of imprisonment as primary enforcement action for fine default

- (1) A person is not liable to be committed to a correctional centre for a failure to pay a fine or other penalty by the due date.
- (2) However, a fine defaulter is liable to be committed to a correctional centre in accordance with this Act for a failure to comply with a community service order served on the fine defaulter under this Act.

126 Abolition of recovery by distress (cf [Justices Act 1902](#) sec 82)

- (1) A fine, or any other order for the payment of money made by a Magistrate, is not to be levied by distress.
- (2) This section does not affect civil enforcement action authorised by this Act or any other Act.

127 Proceedings for offences

Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations are to be disposed of summarily before a Local Court.

128 Regulations

- (1) The Governor may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, for or with respect to any matter that by this Act is required or permitted to be prescribed or that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.
- (2) The regulations may create offences punishable by a penalty not exceeding 50 penalty units.

129 Repeals

The following Acts are repealed:

[Fines and Penalties Act 1901 No 16](#)

[Community Service Orders \(Fine Default\) Amendment Act 1987 No 264](#)

130 (Repealed)

131 Savings, transitional and other provisions

Schedule 3 has effect.

132 Review of Act

- (1) The Minister is to review this Act to determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
- (2) The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 5 years from the date of assent to this Act.
- (3) A report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 12 months after the end of the period of 5 years.

Schedule 1 Statutory provisions under which penalty notices issued

(Section 20)

[Business Names Act 1962](#), section 28A
[Casino Control Act 1992](#), section 168A
[Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983](#), section 24
[Classification \(Publications, Films and Computer Games\) Enforcement Act 1995](#), section 61A
[Companion Animals Act 1998](#), section 92
[Crimes \(Administration of Sentences\) Act 1999](#), section 97
[Criminal Procedure Act 1986](#), section 161
[Crown Lands Act 1989](#), section 162
[Dangerous Goods Act 1975](#), section 43A
[Electricity Supply Act 1995](#), section 103A
[Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#), section 127A
[Fair Trading Act 1987](#), section 64
[Fisheries Management Act 1994](#), section 276
[Fitness Services \(Pre-paid Fees\) Act 2000](#), section 16
[Food Act 2003](#), section 120
[Forestry Act 1916](#), section 46A
[Futures Industry \(New South Wales\) Code](#), section 149
[Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002](#), section 57
[Gaming Machines Act 2001](#), section 203

[Gene Technology \(GM Crop Moratorium\) Act 2003](#), section 35
[Home Building Act 1989](#), section 138A
[Impounding Act 1993](#), section 36
[Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901](#), section 10
[Industrial Relations Act 1996](#), section 396
[Jury Act 1977](#), section 64
[Jury Act 1977](#), section 66
[Landlord and Tenant \(Rental Bonds\) Act 1977](#), section 15A
[Liquor Act 1982](#), section 145A
[Local Government Act 1993](#), section 314, 647 or 679
[Lord Howe Island Act 1953](#), section 37B
[Marine Safety Act 1998](#), section 126
[Maritime Services Act 1935](#), section 30D
[Mining Act 1992](#), section 375A
[Motor Dealers Act 1974](#), section 53E
[Motor Vehicle Repairs Act 1980](#), section 87A
[National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974](#), section 160
[Noxious Weeds Act 1993](#), section 63
[Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000](#), section 108
[Ozone Protection Act 1989](#), section 20
[Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912](#), section 120C
[Parramatta Park Trust Act 2001](#), section 30
[Passenger Transport Act 1990](#), section 59
[Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act 1996](#), section 26
[Pesticides Act 1999](#), section 76
[Petroleum \(Onshore\) Act 1991](#), section 137A
[Plant Diseases Act 1924](#), section 19
[Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999](#), section 62
[Ports Corporatisation and Waterways Management Act 1995](#), section 100
[Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002](#), section 216
[Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997](#), section 224
[Radiation Control Act 1990](#), section 25A
[Rail Safety Act 2002](#), section 105
[Registered Clubs Act 1976](#), section 66
[Registration of Interests in Goods Act 1986](#), section 19A
[Residential Parks Act 1998](#), section 149
[Retirement Villages Act 1999](#), section 184
[Road and Rail Transport \(Dangerous Goods\) Act 1997](#), section 38
[Road Transport \(General\) Act 1999](#), Division 1 of Part 3
[Roads Act 1993](#), section 243
[Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980](#), section 22B
[Rural Fires Act 1997](#), section 131
[Rural Lands Protection Act 1998](#), section 206
[Security Industry Act 1997](#), section 45A
[Sporting Venues \(Pitch Invasions\) Act 2003](#), section 12
[State Sports Centre Trust Act 1984](#), section 20B
[Stock Diseases Act 1923](#), section 200
[Summary Offences Act 1988](#), section 29, 29A or 29B

[Swimming Pools Act 1992](#), section 35
[Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Act 1978](#), section 30A
[Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Act 1998](#), section 43A
[Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001](#), section 79
[Sydney Water Act 1994](#), section 50
[Tow Truck Industry Act 1998](#), section 89
[Trade Measurement Administration Act 1989](#), section 23
[Transport Administration Act 1988](#), section 117
[Unlawful Gambling Act 1998](#), section 52
[Water Supply Authorities Act 1987](#), section 51
[Weapons Prohibition Act 1998](#), section 42
[Wool, Hide and Skin Dealers Act 1935](#), section 12A
[Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998](#), section 246

Schedule 2 (Repealed)

Schedule 3 Savings, transitional and other provisions

(Section 131)

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Regulations

- (1) The regulations may contain provisions of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the following Acts:

this Act

[Fines Amendment Act 1997](#)

[Fines Amendment Act 1998](#)

[State Revenue Legislation Further Amendment Act 2003](#) (to the extent that it amends this Act)

[Fines Amendment Act 2004](#)

- (2) Any such provision may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of assent to the Act concerned or a later day.
- (3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication in the Gazette, the provision does not operate so as:
- (a) to affect, in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the rights of that person existing before the date of its publication, or
 - (b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the date of its

publication.

Part 2 Provisions consequent on enactment of this Act

2 Amnesty period for existing fine defaulters

(1) During the amnesty period:

- (a) a warrant of commitment may not be issued under the *Justices Act 1902* for non-payment of an amount of money, and
- (b) any such warrant that has been issued but not executed before the commencement of the amnesty period is not to be executed.

(1A) This clause does not apply to the issue or execution of any such warrant of commitment in relation to a person who, at the time the warrant is issued or executed, is a convicted inmate within the meaning of the *Correctional Centres Act 1952* or a person subject to control within the meaning of the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987*.

(2) This clause does not prevent the making of a community service order in respect of any such warrant of commitment.

(3) Nothing in this clause prevents arrangements being made by the registrar of a court or the State Debt Recovery Office in accordance with this Act for time to pay an existing fine. Any such arrangements made do not affect any suspension or cancellation of a driver licence or vehicle registration.

(4) This clause has effect despite anything to the contrary in the *Justices Act 1902* or any other Act.

(5) In this clause:

amnesty period means the period after the commencement of this clause and before the commencement of clause 3.

Note—

See section 2 of this Act for provisions relating to the commencement of this clause and clause 3.

3 Act applies to existing fines

(1) This Act extends, subject to this Schedule, to a fine imposed by a court before the commencement of this clause or an amount payable under a penalty notice issued before the commencement of this clause.

(2) For the purposes of this Schedule, any such fine or amount is called an **existing fine**.

4 Court fine provisions

- (1) The time for payment of an existing fine imposed by a court is not affected by section 7 and a notice of such an existing fine need not be given under section 9.
- (2) However, sections 10 and 11 apply to any such existing fine. The registrar of a court may allow further time to pay such a fine under those sections even though the time for payment of the fine has been fixed by the court.
- (3) A court fine enforcement order may be made by the State Debt Recovery Office for an existing fine, whether or not an application is made under this Act for the order.

5 Penalty notice provisions

- (1) A penalty notice for the purposes of this Act includes a penalty notice within the meaning of Part 4B of the *Justices Act 1902* immediately before its repeal by this Act.
- (2) A courtesy letter issued under the *Justices Act 1902* in respect of an existing fine is taken to be a penalty reminder notice issued under this Act.
- (3) An enforcement order issued under section 100L of the *Justices Act 1902* in respect of an existing fine and in force immediately before the commencement of this clause is taken to be a penalty notice enforcement order under this Act.
- (4) For the purpose only of enabling a penalty notice enforcement order to be made under Division 4 of Part 3 in relation to an existing fine, the offence referred to in section 42 (1) (g) is taken to have been committed, or alleged to have been committed, when that Division commenced.
- (5) A penalty notice served on a person in accordance with section 18B of the *Traffic Act 1909*, being a penalty notice in respect of which, as at the commencement of this clause:
 - (a) the amount payable under the notice has not been paid, and
 - (b) a courtesy letter has been sent to the person in accordance with section 100J of the *Justices Act 1902* and the person has not, as referred to in that section, declined to be dealt with under Division 2 of Part 4B of that Act, and
 - (c) no notice has been served under section 18C of the *Traffic Act 1909*,is taken to be a penalty notice enforcement order under this Act and may, subject to Division 5 of Part 3 of this Act, be enforced accordingly.

5A (Repealed)

6 Existing warrants of commitment

- (1) The State Debt Recovery Office may cancel a warrant of commitment issued under

the *Justices Act 1902* for non-payment of an amount of money (being a warrant that was not executed immediately before the commencement of this clause) and may make a fine enforcement order under this Act in respect of the fine concerned.

- (2) The State Debt Recovery Office is not required to serve a copy of any such fine enforcement order on the fine defaulter or to give the fine defaulter any further time to pay the fine before enforcement action is taken under Part 4 of this Act.
- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office may take enforcement action under Part 4 of this Act in respect of such a fine enforcement order at any time after the order is made.
- (4) A person who is, on the commencement of this clause, serving a period of imprisonment under a warrant of commitment issued under the *Justices Act 1902* for non-payment of an amount of money is taken to be serving that period of imprisonment under a warrant issued under this Act.

7 Existing suspension or cancellation of driver licences or vehicle registration

Any driver licence or vehicle registration that has been suspended or cancelled under section 18C of the *Traffic Act 1909* before the repeal of that section by this Act is taken to be a driver licence or vehicle registration suspended or cancelled under Division 3 of Part 4 of this Act.

8 Existing community service orders and orders for periodic detention

- (1) A community service order made on application under section 89C of the *Justices Act 1902* and in force immediately before the commencement of this clause is taken to be a community service order made under section 79 of this Act.
- (2) An order for periodic detention made on application under section 89D of the *Justices Act 1902* and in force immediately before the commencement of this clause is taken to be an order for periodic detention made under section 89 of this Act.
- (3) If any such community service order or order for periodic detention is revoked, the State Debt Recovery Office may make a fine enforcement order under this Act in respect of the fine concerned.
- (4) The State Debt Recovery Office is not required to serve a copy of any such fine enforcement order on the fine defaulter or to give the fine defaulter any further time to pay the fine before enforcement action is taken under Part 4 of this Act.
- (5) The State Debt Recovery Office may take enforcement action under Part 4 of this Act in respect of such a fine enforcement order at any time after the order is made.

9 Existing forfeited recognizances and bail

- (1) The Sheriff is to transmit to the State Debt Recovery Office particulars of all forfeited recognizances and bail that are entered on a copy of an Estreat Roll on the

commencement of this clause and that have not been recovered before that commencement.

- (2) Part 7 of this Act applies to those forfeited recognizances and bail as if they had been transmitted to the State Debt Recovery Office under the *Forfeited Recognizances and Bail Act 1954*.
- (3) The State Debt Recovery Office is not required to serve a copy of any fine enforcement order made in respect any such forfeited recognizance or bail on the fine defaulter or to give the fine defaulter any further time to pay the amount due before enforcement action is taken under Part 4 of this Act.
- (4) The State Debt Recovery Office may take enforcement action under Part 4 of this Act in respect of such a fine enforcement order at any time after the order is made.

10 Reciprocal enforcement of fines against bodies corporate

- (1) A conviction registered, a notification received or a writ of execution issued, under Part 8 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*, before the commencement of this clause is taken to be registered, received or issued under Part 5 of this Act.
- (2) Until regulations are made under section 106 of this Act, courts or classes of courts declared by order in the Gazette under section 26 of the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* immediately before the repeal of that section by this Act are taken to be declared by the regulations under section 106 of this Act.

Part 3 Provisions consequent on enactment of State Revenue Legislation Further Amendment Act 2003

11 Service level deeds

The Treasurer and the Director of the State Debt Recovery Office are taken to be parties to each service level deed in force as at 1 October 2003 and entered into by the Commissioner of Police, or otherwise by or on behalf of the Infringement Processing Bureau within NSW Police, for or with respect to the processing of penalty notices.

12 Construction of references to the Infringement Processing Bureau

A reference in any instrument made before the commencement of this clause to the Manager, Infringement Processing Services of the Police Service, the Infringement Processing Bureau within the Police Service or a person employed in the Infringement Processing Bureau is taken to be a reference to:

- (a) if the reference is made in relation to the issuing or processing of a penalty notice, a person employed in the Office of State Revenue in the Treasury and authorised by the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue for the purposes of Part 3 of this Act, or
- (b) if the reference is made otherwise than in relation to the issuing of a penalty notice,

the State Debt Recovery Office,
subject to the regulations.

Part 4 Provisions consequent on enactment of [Fines Amendment Act 2004](#)

13 Definition

In this Part:

amending Act means the [Fines Amendment Act 2004](#).

14 Application of section 37A

Section 37A, as inserted by the amending Act, does not apply in relation to an offence that was committed or is alleged to have been committed before the commencement of that section.

15 Application of amendment to section 42

Section 42, as in force before its amendment by the amending Act, continues to apply to a penalty notice enforcement order that is proposed to be made in relation to an offence that was committed or is alleged to have been committed before the commencement of the amendment as if that section had not been so amended.

16 Application of amending Act to fine enforcement orders

- (1) Except as provided by clause 15, this Act, as amended by the amending Act, applies to enforcement orders made after the commencement of this clause, whether or not the offence concerned occurred before, on or after that commencement.
- (2) Except as provided by subclause (3) and clause 17, the amendments made by the amending Act to this Act do not apply to or in respect of fine enforcement orders made before the commencement of this clause.
- (3) This Act, as amended by the amending Act, applies to applications made after the commencement of this clause for the withdrawal or annulment of fine enforcement orders, whether or not the enforcement orders were made before, on or after that commencement.

17 Reviews by Hardship Review Board

Section 101B, as inserted by the amending Act, extends to decisions of the State Debt Recovery Office made before the commencement of this clause to refuse an application by a fine defaulter for time to pay or to have a fine written off.