

# Residential Tenancies Act 2010 No 42

[2010-42]



New South Wales

## Status Information

### Currency of version

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### Provisions in force

The provisions displayed in this version of the legislation have all commenced.

### Notes—

- **Does not include amendments by**  
[Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2017 No 17](#) (not commenced — to commence on 1.7.2018)  
[Property, Stock and Business Agents Amendment \(Property Industry Reform\) Act 2018 No 5](#) (not commenced)
- **See also**  
[Residential Tenancies Amendment \(Social Housing\) Bill 2018](#)

### 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 21 June 2018

# Residential Tenancies Act 2010 No 42



New South Wales

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# Residential Tenancies Act 2010 No 42



New South Wales

An Act with respect to the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants, rents, rental bonds and other matters relating to residential tenancy agreements; and for other purposes.

## Part 1 Preliminary

### Division 1 General

#### 1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010*.

#### 2 Commencement

This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

#### 3 Definitions

(1) In this Act:

**acceptable behaviour agreement**—see section 138.

**apprehended violence order** has the same meaning as it has in the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* and includes a provisional, interim and final apprehended violence order.

**approved form** means the form approved from time to time by the Secretary.

**Board** means the Rental Bond Board constituted under this Act.

**co-tenant** means a tenant who is one of 2 or more tenants under a residential tenancy agreement.

**Department** means the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation.

**exercise** a function includes perform a duty.

**fixed term agreement** means a residential tenancy agreement for a tenancy for a fixed term.

**function** includes a power, authority or duty.

**give** includes cause to give.

**holding fee** means an amount paid or required to be paid to a person for not letting premises pending the making of a residential tenancy agreement.

**investigator** means an investigator appointed under section 18 of the [Fair Trading Act 1987](#).

**landlord** means:

- (a) the person who grants the right to occupy residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement, or
- (b) a successor in title to the residential premises whose interest is subject to the interest of the tenant, or
- (c) a tenant who has granted the right to occupy residential premises to a sub-tenant, and includes a prospective landlord.

**landlord's agent** means a person who acts as the agent of a landlord and who (whether or not the person carries on any other business) carries on business as an agent for:

- (a) the letting of residential premises, or
- (b) the collection of rents payable for any tenancy of residential premises.

**Note—**

A person who acts as such an agent is required to be licensed under the [Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002](#).

**periodic agreement** means a residential tenancy agreement that is not a fixed term agreement.

**premises** includes a moveable dwelling within the meaning of the [Local Government Act 1993](#).

**record** includes any book, account, document, paper and other source of information compiled, recorded or stored in written form, or on microfilm, or by electronic process, or in any other manner or by any other means.

**rent** means an amount payable by a tenant under a residential tenancy agreement for the right to occupy premises for a period of the agreement.

**rental bond**—see section 157.

**residential premises** means any premises or part of premises (including any land occupied with the premises) used or intended to be used as a residence.

**Note—**

Land on which there is no residence cannot be subject to a tenancy or other provisions under this Act.

**residential tenancy agreement**—see section 13.

**residential tenancy database**—see section 209.

**Secretary** means:

- (a) the Commissioner for Fair Trading, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, or
- (b) if there is no person employed as Commissioner for Fair Trading—the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation.

**sign** includes execution by a corporation in any manner permitted by law.

**social housing premises**—see section 136.

**social housing provider**—see section 136.

**social housing tenancy agreement**—see section 136.

**tenancy** means the right to occupy residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement.

**tenant** means:

- (a) the person who has the right to occupy residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement, or
- (b) the person to whom such a right passes by transfer or operation of the law, or
- (c) a sub-tenant of a tenant,

and includes a prospective tenant.

**termination notice**—see section 80.

**termination order**—see section 80.

**Tribunal** means the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

**water usage charge** for residential premises means that part of a water charge that is based on the volume of water supplied to the premises.

**Note—**

The [Interpretation Act 1987](#) contains definitions and other provisions that affect the interpretation and application of this Act.

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

#### **4 Act to bind Crown**

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

#### **5 (Repealed)**

### **Division 2 Application of Act**

#### **6 Act applies to existing and future residential tenancy agreements**

This Act applies to residential tenancy agreements in respect of residential premises whether made before or after the commencement of this section.

#### **7 Premises to which Act does not apply**

This Act does not apply in respect of the following premises:

- (a) premises to which the [Landlord and Tenant \(Amendment\) Act 1948](#) applies,
- (b) premises used to provide residential care or respite care within the meaning of the [Aged Care Act 1997](#) of the Commonwealth,
- (c) serviced apartments, that is, buildings or parts of buildings used to provide self-contained tourist and visitor accommodation that are regularly cleaned by or on behalf of the owner or manager,
- (d) premises used as a hotel or motel,
- (e) premises used as a backpackers' hostel,
- (f) a hospital or nursing home,
- (g) any part of a club used for the provision of temporary accommodation,
- (h) premises used for residential purposes, if the predominant use of the premises is for the purposes of a trade, profession, business or agriculture.

#### **8 Agreements to which Act does not apply**

- (1) This Act does not apply to the following agreements:
  - (a) occupation agreements to which the [Holiday Parks \(Long-term Casual Occupation\) Act 2002](#) applies,
  - (b) residence contracts within the meaning of the [Retirement Villages Act 1999](#),



- (ba) site agreements within the meaning of the *Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act 2013*,
- (c) an agreement under which a person boards or lodges with another person,
- (d) an agreement under which a person resides in refuge or crisis accommodation of a kind prescribed by the regulations,
- (e) leases and licences under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*, the *Western Lands Act 1901* or the *Crown Lands (Continued Tenures) Act 1989*,
- (f) an agreement for the sale of land that confers a right to occupy residential premises on a party to the agreement,
- (g) an agreement that arises under a term of a mortgage and confers a right to occupy residential premises on a party to the mortgage,
- (h) an agreement made for the purpose of giving a person the right to occupy residential premises for a period of not more than 3 months for the purpose of a holiday,
- (i) an agreement that arises under a company title scheme under which a group of adjoining or adjacent premises is owned or leased by a corporation each of whose shareholders has, by virtue of his or her shares, an exclusive right to occupy one or more of the residential premises,
- (j) an agreement having a term, together with the term of any further agreement that may be granted under an option in respect of it, that is equal to or exceeds 99 years.

(2) (Repealed)

#### **8A Application of Act to premises**

This Act applies to any agreement to rent premises anywhere, including in a caravan park regulated under the *Local Government Act 1993* or a community within the meaning of the *Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act 2013*.

#### **9 Employee and caretaker arrangements**

- (1) An agreement or arrangement under which a person is given the right to occupy premises for the purpose of a residence in return for, or as part of remuneration for, carrying out work in connection with the premises or the person's employment is taken to be a residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) This section applies even if the premises are part of premises referred to in section 7 or other premises exempted from this Act by the regulations,

- (3) However, this section does not apply to a person employed as a manager or another full-time employee in a community within the meaning of the *Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act 2013*.

## **10 Application of Act to occupants in shared households**

A person who occupies residential premises that are subject to a written residential tenancy agreement, is not named as a tenant in the agreement and who occupies the premises together with a named tenant is a tenant for the purposes of this Act only if:

- (a) a tenant under that agreement transfers the tenancy to the person or the person is recognised as a tenant (see Part 4), or
- (b) the person is a sub-tenant of a tenant under a written residential tenancy agreement with that tenant.

### **Note—**

Boarders and lodgers are not covered by this Act (see section 8 (1) (c)).

An occupier may be recognised as a tenant (see sections 77 and 79).

## **11 Declaration by Tribunal**

The Tribunal may, on application by the Secretary or another person, make an order declaring that a specified agreement is, or is not, a residential tenancy agreement to which this Act applies or that specified premises are, or are not, premises to which this Act applies.

### **Note—**

Under section 195, the Secretary may intervene in proceedings before the Tribunal that are brought by another person.

## **12 Exemptions from operation of Act**

- (1) The regulations may exempt from the operation of this Act or the regulations or any specified provision of this Act or the regulations any specified person, agreement or premises or any specified class of persons, agreements or premises.
- (2) An exemption may be unconditional or subject to conditions.

# **Part 2 Residential tenancy agreements**

## **Division 1 General provisions relating to agreements**

### **13 Agreements that are residential tenancy agreements**

- (1) A **residential tenancy agreement** is an agreement under which a person grants to another person for value a right of occupation of residential premises for the purpose of use as a residence.

- (2) A residential tenancy agreement may be express or implied and may be oral or in writing, or partly oral and partly in writing.
- (3) An agreement may be a residential tenancy agreement for the purposes of this Act even though:
  - (a) it does not grant a right of exclusive occupation, or
  - (b) it grants the right to occupy residential premises together with the letting of goods or the provision of services or facilities.

**Note—**

See section 8 for agreements that are not covered by this Act. Section 7 sets out premises not covered by this Act.

- (4) For the purpose of determining whether an agreement is a residential tenancy agreement, it does not matter that the person granted the right of occupation is a corporation if the premises are used (or intended for use) as a residence by a natural person.

#### **14 Landlord's obligation to ensure written residential tenancy agreement**

- (1) The landlord under a residential tenancy agreement must ensure that the agreement is in writing at the commencement of the agreement.
- (2) This section does not:
  - (a) impose any obligation on a tenant to prepare a written residential tenancy agreement, or
  - (b) affect the enforceability of a residential tenancy agreement that is not in writing or is only partly in writing.
- (3) If a landlord fails to comply with this section:
  - (a) the rent under the residential tenancy agreement must not be increased during the first 6 months of the tenancy, and
  - (b) the landlord is not entitled to terminate the residential tenancy agreement under section 85 during the first 6 months of the tenancy.

**Note—**

The Tribunal may order a landlord to enter into a written residential tenancy agreement (see section 16).

#### **15 Standard residential tenancy agreements**

- (1) **Standard form may be prescribed** The regulations may prescribe a standard form of residential tenancy agreement.

- (2) The regulations may provide for the following:
  - (a) the terms of the agreement,
  - (b) more than one standard form of residential tenancy agreement for use for different classes of residential premises, agreements or parties,
  - (c) the addition of clauses to, or the omission or variation of terms contained in, a standard form of residential tenancy agreement in specified circumstances,
  - (d) the application of terms of standard forms of residential tenancy agreement to agreements entered into before the regulations prescribing those standard forms took effect.
- (3) **Terms to be consistent with Act** A standard form of residential tenancy agreement must be consistent with this Act and the regulations.
- (4) **Variation of standard form** A residential tenancy agreement for which a standard form is prescribed may include additional terms, but only if:
  - (a) the terms do not contravene this Act or the regulations or any other Act, and
  - (b) the terms are not inconsistent with the terms set out in the standard form.
- (5) **Residential tenancy agreement taken to include standard terms** A residential tenancy agreement of a kind for which a standard form is prescribed is taken to include the terms of the standard form.
- (6) This section is subject to this Act.

**Note—**

Section 20 allows terms otherwise included by this Act to be excluded or modified in residential tenancy agreements having a fixed term of 20 years or more.

**16 Written residential tenancy agreements—Tribunal orders**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, order the landlord to prepare and enter into a written residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) The order may:
  - (a) specify the terms of the agreement, and
  - (b) specify a commencement date for the agreement that occurred before the order was made.
- (3) The Tribunal may make an order under this section only if it is satisfied that the landlord and tenant are subject to an existing residential tenancy agreement that is not in writing or is only partly in writing and that the tenant is not holding over under

a previous written fixed term agreement.

### **17 Certain unexecuted residential tenancy agreements enforceable**

- (1) If a residential tenancy agreement has been signed by a tenant and given to the landlord or a person on the landlord's behalf and has not been signed by the landlord:
  - (a) acceptance of rent by or on behalf of the landlord without reservation, or
  - (b) any other act of part performance of the agreement by or on behalf of the landlord,

gives to the document the same effect it would have if it had been signed by the landlord on the first day in respect of which rent was accepted or on the day on which such an act was first performed.

- (2) This section applies despite section 54A of the *Conveyancing Act 1919*.

### **18 Fixed term agreements to continue as periodic agreements after end of fixed term**

A fixed term agreement that continues after the day on which the fixed term ends continues to apply:

- (a) as if the term of the agreement were replaced by a periodic agreement, and
- (b) on the same terms as immediately before the end of the fixed term.

#### **Note—**

A landlord and tenant may also enter a further agreement for a further fixed term tenancy.

## **Division 2 Terms of residential tenancy agreements**

### **19 Prohibited terms**

- (1) A residential tenancy agreement must not contain a term of a kind set out in this section or prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.
- (2) Terms having the following effects must not be included in a residential tenancy agreement:
  - (a) that the tenant must have the carpet professionally cleaned, or pay the cost of such cleaning, at the end of the tenancy,
  - (b) that the tenant must take out a specified, or any, form of insurance,
  - (c) exempting the landlord from liability for any act or omission by the landlord, the landlord's agent or any person acting on behalf of the landlord or landlord's agent,
  - (d) that, if the tenant breaches the agreement, the tenant is liable to pay all or any part of the remaining rent under the agreement, increased rent, a penalty or

liquidated damages,

- (e) that, if the tenant does not breach the agreement, the rent is or may be reduced or the tenant is to be or may be paid a rebate of rent or other benefit.

**Note—**

Section 15 also prohibits certain additional terms from being included in a residential tenancy agreement for which a standard form is prescribed.

- (3) However, a residential tenancy agreement may include a term that requires the carpet to be professionally cleaned or requires the tenant to pay the cost of such cleaning, at the end of the tenancy, if the landlord permits the tenant to keep an animal on the residential premises.

**20 Mandatory terms may be varied for long term leases**

- (1) A fixed term agreement for a fixed term of 20 years or more may:
  - (a) provide that terms that would otherwise be included in the agreement by this Act or the regulations (**mandatory terms**) do not apply, or are varied as provided by the agreement, and
  - (b) include terms that would otherwise be prohibited by this Act or the regulations.
- (2) However, any such agreement must not exclude or modify any of the following:
  - (a) any term included by this Act relating to the payment of rates, taxes and charges by the landlord,
  - (b) the prohibition against more than one rent increase a year under a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of more than 2 years,
  - (c) any right under this Act to make an application to the Tribunal,
  - (d) the grounds on which a residential tenancy agreement may be terminated under this Act,
  - (e) any other term prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.
- (3) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant under a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of 20 years or more, make an order declaring that:
  - (a) a mandatory term does form part of the agreement, or
  - (b) a prohibited term is not included in an agreement, or
  - (c) a mandatory or prohibited term included in the agreement is varied as specified by the declaration.
- (4) The Tribunal may make an order if it is of the opinion that the inclusion or variation of

a term, or failure to include a term, is unconscionable, unjust, harsh or oppressive.

(5) This section has effect despite any other provision of this Act.

## **21 Inconsistent and prohibited terms void**

(1) A term of a residential tenancy agreement is void to the extent to which it:

- (a) is inconsistent with any term included in the agreement by this Act or the regulations, or
- (b) is prohibited by this Act or the regulations.

(2) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or a tenant, make an order declaring that a term of a residential tenancy agreement is void or partly void if satisfied that the term is inconsistent with any term included in the agreement by this Act or the regulations or is prohibited by this Act or the regulations.

## **22 Offence relating to terms of residential tenancy agreements**

A landlord, or landlord's agent, must ensure that a written residential tenancy agreement:

- (a) is in the standard form (if any) prescribed by the regulations for the agreement and contains any other terms required to be included by this Act or the regulations, and
- (b) does not contain any terms prohibited by this Act or the regulations.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

# **Part 3 Rights and obligations of landlords and tenants**

## **Division 1 Pre-agreement matters**

### **23 Limit on amounts payable by tenant before agreement**

- (1) A person must not require or receive from a tenant, before or when the tenant enters into the residential tenancy agreement, a payment other than the following:
  - (a) a holding fee,
  - (b) rent,
  - (c) a rental bond,
  - (d) an amount for the fee (if any) payable for registration of a residential tenancy agreement under the *Real Property Act 1900*.
- (2) Without limiting this section, a person must not require or receive from a tenant an amount for the costs of preparation of a written residential tenancy agreement.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

## **24 Holding fees**

- (1) A person must not require or receive from a tenant a holding fee unless:
  - (a) the tenant's application for tenancy of the residential premises has been approved by the landlord, and
  - (b) the fee does not exceed 1 week's rent of the residential premises (based on the rent under the proposed residential tenancy agreement).

### **Note—**

A **tenant** is defined in this Act as including a prospective tenant.

- (2) A person who receives a holding fee must give the tenant a written receipt setting out the following:
  - (a) the amount paid and the date on which it was paid,
  - (b) the address of the residential premises,
  - (c) the names of the landlord and the tenant.
- (3) If a tenant has paid a holding fee, the landlord must not enter into a residential tenancy agreement for the residential premises with any other person within 7 days of payment of the fee (or within such further period as may be agreed with the tenant) unless the tenant notifies the landlord that the tenant no longer wishes to enter into the residential tenancy agreement.
- (4) A holding fee may be retained by the landlord only if the tenant enters into the residential tenancy agreement or refuses to enter into the residential tenancy agreement.
- (5) Despite subsection (4), a holding fee must not be retained by the landlord if the tenant refuses to enter into the residential tenancy agreement because of a misrepresentation or failure to disclose a material fact by the landlord or landlord's agent.
- (6) If a residential tenancy agreement is entered into after payment of a holding fee, the fee must be paid towards rent.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

## **25 Disputes about holding fees**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a person who has paid, or required or received payment of, a holding fee, make an order in relation to the payment or repayment of the fee.



- (2) A person may make an application under this section whether or not the prospective residential tenancy agreement was executed.

## **26 Disclosure of information to tenants generally**

- (1) **False representations** A landlord or landlord's agent must not induce a tenant to enter into a residential tenancy agreement by any statement, representation or promise that the landlord or agent knows to be false, misleading or deceptive or by knowingly concealing a material fact of a kind prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) **Disclosure of sale, mortgagee actions** A landlord or landlord's agent must disclose the following to the tenant before the tenant enters into the residential tenancy agreement:
  - (a) any proposal to sell the residential premises, if the landlord has prepared a contract for sale of the residential premises,
  - (b) that a mortgagee is taking action for possession of the residential premises, if the mortgagee has commenced proceedings in a court to enforce a mortgage over the premises.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a landlord's agent unless the agent is aware of the matters required to be disclosed.
- (4) **Information statement to be given** A landlord or landlord's agent must give a tenant an information statement in the approved form before the tenant enters into the residential tenancy agreement.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

## **27 Names and addresses to be provided**

- (1) A landlord must give the tenant written notice of the following matters before or when the tenant enters into the residential tenancy agreement or include the following matters in the agreement:
  - (a) the name, telephone number and business address of the landlord's agent (if any) and the name and telephone number or other contact details of the landlord,
  - (b) if there is no landlord's agent, the business address, or residential address, and telephone number, of the landlord,
  - (c) if the landlord is a corporation, the name and the business address of the corporation.
- (2) A landlord must notify the tenant in writing within 14 days of any change during the residential tenancy agreement in the information provided under this section.
- (3) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## **28 Tenant entitled to copy of residential tenancy agreement**

- (1) The landlord or landlord's agent must give the tenant a copy of the residential tenancy agreement before or when the tenant gives the signed copy of the agreement to the landlord or landlord's agent.
- (2) If that copy is not signed by the landlord, the landlord or landlord's agent must give the tenant a copy of the residential tenancy agreement signed by both the landlord and tenant, as soon as practicable after it is so signed.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

## **29 Condition reports**

- (1) A condition report relating to the condition of residential premises on a day specified in the report must be completed by or on behalf of a landlord before or when the residential tenancy agreement is given to the tenant for signing.
- (2) Two copies of the condition report must be given by the landlord or landlord's agent to the tenant before or when the tenant signs the residential tenancy agreement.
- (3) The tenant must complete and give one copy of the condition report to the landlord or landlord's agent not later than 7 days after receiving it and both the landlord and the tenant must retain a copy of the report.
- (4) At, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, the termination of a residential tenancy agreement, the landlord or landlord's agent and the tenant must complete the copy of the condition report retained by the landlord or the tenant under this section, in the presence of the other party.
- (5) It is not a breach of subsection (4) for the condition report to be completed in the absence of the other party if the party completing the report has given the other party a reasonable opportunity to be present when it is completed.
- (6) A condition report is to be in the form prescribed by the regulations and may be included in a prescribed standard form of residential tenancy agreement.

## **30 Condition report evidence of condition of premises**

- (1) A condition report that is signed by both the landlord and the tenant is presumed to be a correct statement, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, of the state of repair or general condition of the residential premises on the day specified in the report.
- (2) This section does not apply:
  - (a) to any matter that could not have reasonably been discovered on a reasonable inspection of the premises, or

- (b) to any statement in the report about which the tenant makes a written dissenting comment on the copy of the report completed by the tenant and retained by the landlord.

### **31 Remedies for disputes about condition reports**

The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or tenant, make the following orders:

- (a) an order that a condition report must be amended,
- (b) an order that a condition report is not required to be amended.

## **Division 2 Rent and other payments**

### **32 Kinds of payments that tenant may be required to pay for residential tenancy agreement**

A person must not require or receive from a tenant any payment for or in relation to renewing, extending or continuing a residential tenancy agreement, other than the following:

- (a) rent,
- (b) a rental bond,
- (c) any other amounts or fees prescribed by the regulations.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

### **33 Payment of rent by tenant**

- (1) A tenant must pay the rent under a residential tenancy agreement on or before the day set out in the agreement.
- (2) A landlord, or landlord's agent, must not require a tenant to pay more than 2 weeks rent in advance under a residential tenancy agreement or to pay rent for a period of the tenancy before the end of the previous period for which rent has been paid.

**Note—**

A tenant may pay more than 2 weeks rent if the tenant wishes to do so.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (3) A landlord, or landlord's agent, must not knowingly appropriate rent paid by the tenant for the purpose of any amount payable by the tenant other than rent.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### 34 Acceptance of rent by landlord

- (1) A landlord must accept payment of unpaid rent by a tenant if:
  - (a) the landlord has given a termination notice on the ground of failure to pay rent under the residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) the tenant has not vacated the residential premises.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

#### Note—

A residential tenancy agreement may generally not be terminated by the Tribunal, or possession of residential premises be recovered, on the ground of failure to pay rent if the tenant repays the rent or complies with an agreement to do so (see section 89).

- (2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### 35 Manner of payment of rent

- (1) A landlord, landlord's agent or other person must not require a tenant to pay rent by a cheque or other negotiable instrument that is post-dated.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (2) A landlord or landlord's agent must permit a tenant to pay the rent by at least one means for which the tenant does not incur a cost (other than bank fees or other account fees usually payable for the tenant's transactions) and that is reasonably available to the tenant.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (3) A landlord and the tenant may, by agreement, change the manner in which rent is payable under the residential tenancy agreement.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### 36 Rent receipts

- (1) If rent under a residential tenancy agreement is paid in person (other than by cheque), the person who receives the payment must, when the payment is made, give the person making the payment a rent receipt.
- (2) If rent under a residential tenancy agreement is paid by cheque, the person who receives the payment must make the receipt available for collection by the tenant or post it to the residential premises.
- (3) A **rent receipt** is a receipt that contains the following matters:
  - (a) the name of the person who receives the rent or on whose behalf the rent is

received,

- (b) the name of the person paying the rent or on whose behalf the rent is paid,
- (c) the address of the residential premises for which the rent is paid,
- (d) the period for which the rent is paid and the date up to which the rent is paid,
- (e) the date on which the rent is paid,
- (f) the amount of rent paid.

(4) This section does not apply to the New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation or the Aboriginal Housing Office.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

### **37 Rent records**

- (1) A landlord or landlord's agent must keep a record of rent received under a residential tenancy agreement (a **rent record**).
- (2) A rent record may be kept in any form, and must contain any particulars, prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.
- (3) A landlord or landlord's agent must, within 7 days of a written request by the tenant, provide a written statement setting out the particulars of the rent record for a specified period.
- (4) This section does not require a landlord or landlord's agent to provide a written statement for a period to a person if the landlord or agent has previously provided a written statement for the same period to the person.
- (5) Subsections (3) and (4) are terms of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **38 Utility charges payable by tenant**

- (1) A tenant must pay the following charges for the residential premises:
  - (a) all charges for the supply of electricity, gas (except bottled gas) or oil to the tenant at the residential premises if the premises are separately metered,
  - (b) all charges for the supply of bottled gas to the tenant at the residential premises,
  - (c) all charges for pumping out a septic system used for the residential premises,
  - (d) any excess garbage charges relating to the tenant's use of the residential premises,
  - (e) any other charges prescribed by the regulations.

(2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **39 Water usage charges payable by tenant**

- (1) A tenant must pay the water usage charges for the residential premises, but only if:
  - (a) the premises are separately metered or the premises are not connected to a water supply service and water is delivered to the premises by vehicle, and
  - (b) the premises contain water efficiency measures prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section, and
  - (c) the charges do not exceed the amount payable by the landlord for water used by the tenant.
- (2) A tenant is not required to pay the water usage charges unless the landlord gives the tenant a copy of the part of the water supply authority's bill setting out the charges, or other evidence of the cost of water used by the tenant.
- (3) A landlord must give the tenant not less than 21 days to pay the water usage charges.
- (4) A tenant is not required to pay the water usage charges if the landlord fails to request payment from the tenant within 3 months of the issue of the bill for those charges by the water supply authority.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not prevent a landlord from taking action to recover an amount of water usage charges later than 3 months after the issue of a bill for those charges, if the landlord first sought payment of the amount within 3 months after the issue of the bill.
- (6) A landlord must ensure that the tenant receives the benefit of, or an amount equivalent to, any rebate received by the landlord in respect of any water usage charges payable or paid by the tenant.

**Note—**

Tenants under social housing tenancy agreements may be subject to different provisions in relation to the payment of charges for water usage (see Division 3 of Part 7).

(7) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **40 Payment of rates, taxes and certain utility charges by landlord**

- (1) A landlord must pay the following charges for the residential premises:
  - (a) rates, taxes or charges payable under any Act (other than charges payable by the tenant under this Division),
  - (b) the installation costs and charges for initial connection to the residential premises of an electricity, water, gas, bottled gas or oil supply service,

- (c) all charges for the supply of electricity, gas (except bottled gas) or oil to the tenant at the residential premises that are not separately metered,
- (d) the costs and charges for the supply or hire of gas bottles for the supply of bottled gas at the commencement of the tenancy,
- (e) all charges (other than water usage charges) in connection with a water supply service to separately metered residential premises,
- (f) all charges in connection with a water supply service to residential premises that are not separately metered,
- (g) all charges for the supply of sewerage services (other than for pump out septic services) or the supply or use of drainage services to the residential premises,
- (h) any other charges prescribed by the regulations.

(2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **41 Rent increases**

- (1) The rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement may be increased only if:
  - (a) the tenant is given a written notice by the landlord or the landlord's agent specifying the increased rent and the day from which it is payable, and
  - (b) the notice is given at least 60 days before the increased rent is payable.
- (2) This section extends to an increase in the rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement on renewal of the agreement as if the increase were an increase during the term of the agreement.

**Note—**

Notice of a rent increase on renewal is required under subsection (1) before the lease is renewed.

- (3) A rent increase is not payable by a tenant unless the rent is increased in accordance with this section or the rent is increased by the Tribunal.
- (4) The residential tenancy agreement is varied to specify the increased rent from the date the rent is increased in accordance with this section.
- (5) Notice of a rent increase must be given by a landlord or landlord's agent in accordance with this section even if details of the rent increase are set out in the residential tenancy agreement.
- (6) Notice of a rent increase may be cancelled or varied (so as to reduce the increase) by a subsequent written notice given to the tenant by or on behalf of the landlord. Any such later notice takes effect from the date on which the earlier notice was to take effect.

- (7) Notice of a rent increase is not required to be given by a landlord or landlord's agent if the increase arises because of the end of, or a reduction in, a rent reduction.
- (8) Subsections (1)–(7) are terms of every residential tenancy agreement.
- (9) A landlord or landlord's agent must not contravene this section.  
Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.
- (10) The Tribunal must not make an order that a rent increase is not payable because this section has not been complied with unless the application for the order is made not later than 12 months after the rent is increased. If an application has not been made within that 12-month period, the rent increase is taken to comply with this section.

#### **42 Rent increases under fixed term agreements**

- (1) The rent payable under a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of less than 2 years must not be increased during the fixed term unless the agreement specifies the increased rent or the method of calculating the increase.
- (2) The rent payable under a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of 2 years or more:
  - (a) must not be increased more than once in any period of 12 months, and
  - (b) may be increased whether or not the agreement specifies the increased rent or the method of calculating the increase.
- (3) A landlord or landlord's agent must not increase the rent payable under a fixed term agreement in contravention of this section.  
Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

#### **43 Rent reductions**

- (1) **Reduction in goods, services or facilities** The tenant may make a written request to the landlord at any time for a reduction in rent if the landlord reduces or withdraws any goods, services or facilities provided with the residential premises, even if those goods, services or facilities are provided under a separate or a previous contract, agreement or arrangement.
- (2) **Premises unusable** The rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement abates if residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement are:
  - (a) otherwise than as a result of a breach of an agreement, destroyed or become wholly or partly uninhabitable, or
  - (b) cease to be lawfully usable as a residence, or
  - (c) appropriated or acquired by any authority by compulsory process.



- (3) **Access to purchasers** The landlord and tenant may agree to reduce the rent payable for premises during periods when access to the residential premises is required to be given to prospective purchasers of the premises.
- (4) **Effect of section** This section does not limit the rights of landlords and tenants to agree to reduce the rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement.
- (5) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **44 Tenant's remedies for excessive rent**

- (1) **Excessive rent orders** The Tribunal may, on the application of a tenant, make any of the following orders:
  - (a) an order that a rent increase under an existing or proposed residential tenancy agreement is excessive and that, from a specified day, the rent for residential premises must not exceed a specified amount,
  - (b) an order that rent payable under an existing or proposed residential tenancy agreement is excessive, having regard to the reduction or withdrawal by the landlord of any goods, services or facilities provided with the residential premises and that, from a specified day, the rent for residential premises must not exceed a specified amount.
- (2) **Time limit for excessive rent increase applications** An application for an order that a rent increase is excessive must be made within the period prescribed by the regulations after notice of the increase is given.
- (3) **Applications on withdrawal of goods or services** A tenant may, before the end of a tenancy, make an application that the rent is excessive, having regard to the reduction or withdrawal of any goods, services or facilities provided with the residential premises, even if those goods, services or facilities were provided under a separate or a previous contract, agreement or arrangement.
- (4) **Determination of excessive rent** For the purposes of making an order under this section, the Tribunal may declare that amounts payable under a contract, agreement or arrangement under which goods, services or facilities are provided to the tenant are rent.
- (5) The Tribunal may have regard to the following in determining whether a rent increase or rent is excessive:
  - (a) the general market level of rents for comparable premises in the locality or a similar locality,
  - (b) the landlord's outgoings under the residential tenancy agreement or proposed agreement,

- (c) any fittings, appliances or other goods, services or facilities provided with the residential premises,
- (d) the state of repair of the residential premises,
- (e) the accommodation and amenities provided in the residential premises,
- (f) any work done to the residential premises by or on behalf of the tenant,
- (g) when the last increase occurred,
- (h) any other matter it considers relevant (other than the income of the tenant or the tenant's ability to afford the rent increase or rent).

(6) **Effect of excessive rent order** An order by the Tribunal specifying a maximum amount of rent:

- (a) has effect for the period (of not more than 12 months) specified by the Tribunal, and
- (b) binds only the landlord and tenant under the residential tenancy agreement or proposed residential tenancy agreement under which the rent is payable.

**Note—**

A tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement may also apply for an order that rent is excessive if a rent rebate is cancelled (see section 141 (1)).

#### **45 Remedies for reduction of rent on frustration of residential tenancy agreement**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by the landlord or tenant, make an order determining the amount of rent payable if the rent is abated under section 43 (2).
- (2) The Tribunal may order that:
  - (a) from a specified day, the rent for the residential premises must not exceed a specified amount, and
  - (b) the landlord must repay to the tenant any rent paid by the tenant since the specified day that is in excess of the specified amount.

**Note—**

The residential tenancy agreement may also be terminated in these circumstances (see section 109).

#### **46 Contraventions of rent order**

- (1) A person must not demand, require or receive any rent from a tenant exceeding an amount specified by the Tribunal.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) A court before which proceedings for an offence under this section have been brought, or the Tribunal, on application by a tenant, may (in addition to any other penalty) order the person who committed the offence or any person on whose behalf that person acted to pay to the tenant against whom the offence was committed an amount equal to the amount of any rent unlawfully received from the tenant.

#### **47 Tenant's remedies for repayment of rent and excess charges**

- (1) **Requests to landlord** A tenant may make a written request to the landlord that the landlord repay to the tenant any rent, or other amounts, paid by the tenant that are not required to be paid under this Act or the residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) A request may be made during or after the termination of a residential tenancy agreement.
- (3) A landlord must, within 14 days of a written request by a tenant, repay to the tenant the amount of any rent or other amount paid in excess of the amount payable by the tenant under this Act or the residential tenancy agreement.
- (4) **Tribunal orders** A tenant may apply to the Tribunal for an order for the repayment of rent or any other amount paid by the tenant if a written request by the tenant for payment is not complied with by the landlord within 14 days.
- (5) The Tribunal may order that rent or any other amount be repaid to the tenant if it finds that the rent or amount was not required to be paid by the tenant under this Act or the residential tenancy agreement.

#### **48 Landlord may recover certain rent expenses**

- (1) A tenant must, at the written request of the landlord, pay to the landlord the following amounts:
  - (a) the cost of replacing rent deposit books or rent cards lost by the tenant,
  - (b) the amount of any fees paid to an authorised deposit-taking institution by the landlord as a result of funds of the tenant not being available for rent payment on the due date (such as fees for dishonoured cheques or other account fees).
- (2) This section has effect despite any other provision of this Division.
- (3) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **Division 3 Occupation and use of residential premises**

#### **49 Occupation of residential premises as residence**

- (1) A landlord must take all reasonable steps to ensure that, at the time of entering into the residential tenancy agreement, there is no legal impediment to the occupation of

the residential premises as a residence for the period of the tenancy.

- (2) A landlord must ensure that the tenant has vacant possession of any part of the residential premises to which the tenant has a right of exclusive possession on the day on which the tenant is entitled to occupy those premises under the residential tenancy agreement.
- (3) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **50 Tenant's right to quiet enjoyment**

- (1) A tenant is entitled to quiet enjoyment of the residential premises without interruption by the landlord or any person claiming by, through or under the landlord or having superior title (such as a head landlord) to that of the landlord.
- (2) A landlord or landlord's agent must not interfere with, or cause or permit any interference with, the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of the tenant in using the residential premises.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

- (3) A landlord or landlord's agent must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the landlord's other neighbouring tenants do not interfere with the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of the tenant in using the residential premises.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **51 Use of premises by tenant**

- (1) A tenant must not do any of the following:
  - (a) use the residential premises, or cause or permit the premises to be used, for any illegal purpose,
  - (b) cause or permit a nuisance,
  - (c) interfere, or cause or permit any interference, with the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of any neighbour of the tenant,
  - (d) intentionally or negligently cause or permit any damage to the residential premises,
  - (e) cause or permit a number of persons to reside in the residential premises that exceeds any number specified in the residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) A tenant must do the following:
  - (a) keep the residential premises in a reasonable state of cleanliness, having regard to the condition of the premises at the commencement of the tenancy,

(b) notify the landlord of any damage to the residential premises as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the damage.

(3) On giving vacant possession of the residential premises, the tenant must do the following:

(a) remove all the tenant's goods from the residential premises,

(b) leave the residential premises as nearly as possible in the same condition, fair wear and tear excepted, and, if there is a condition report, as set out in the condition report applicable to the premises when the agreement was entered into,

(c) leave the residential premises in a reasonable state of cleanliness, having regard to the condition of the premises at the commencement of the tenancy,

(d) remove or arrange for the removal from the residential premises of all rubbish, having regard to the condition of the premises at the commencement of the tenancy,

(e) return to the landlord all keys, and other opening devices or similar devices, provided by the landlord to the tenant.

(4) In this section:

**residential premises** includes everything provided with the residential premises (whether under the residential tenancy agreement or not) for use by the tenant.

(5) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## **52 Landlord's general obligations for residential premises**

(1) A landlord must provide the residential premises in a reasonable state of cleanliness and fit for habitation by the tenant.

(2) A landlord must not interfere with the supply of gas, electricity, water, telecommunications services or other services to the residential premises unless the interference is necessary to avoid danger to any person or to enable maintenance or repairs to be carried out.

(3) A landlord must comply with the landlord's statutory obligations relating to the health or safety of the residential premises.

### **Note—**

Such obligations include obligations relating to swimming pools under the [Swimming Pools Act 1992](#).

(4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## **53 Sale of residential premises**

(1) A landlord must give the tenant written notice of the landlord's intention to sell the

residential premises not later than 14 days before the premises are first made available for inspection by prospective purchasers.

- (2) A landlord or the agent of the landlord for the sale of the residential premises must make all reasonable efforts to agree with the tenant as to the days and times when the residential premises are to be periodically available for inspection by prospective purchasers.
- (3) A tenant must not unreasonably refuse to agree to days and times when the residential premises are to be periodically available for inspection by prospective purchasers.
- (4) A tenant is not required to agree to the residential premises being available for inspection by prospective purchasers more than twice a week.
- (5) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **54 Liability of tenant for actions of others**

- (1) A tenant is vicariously responsible to the landlord for any act or omission by any other person who is lawfully on the residential premises (other than a person who has a right of entry without the tenant's consent) that would have been a breach of the residential tenancy agreement if it had been an act or omission by the tenant.
- (2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **Division 4 Landlord's rights to enter residential premises**

#### **55 Access generally by landlord to residential premises without consent**

- (1) A landlord, the landlord's agent or any other person authorised by the landlord may enter residential premises during a residential tenancy agreement without the consent of the tenant, and without giving notice to the tenant, only in the following circumstances:
  - (a) in an emergency,
  - (b) to carry out urgent repairs,
  - (c) if the landlord, landlord's agent or person has made a reasonable attempt to obtain entry with consent and has reasonable cause for serious concern about the health or safety of the tenant or any other person that the landlord, landlord's agent or person believes is on the residential premises,
  - (d) if the landlord forms a reasonable belief that the residential premises have been abandoned,
  - (e) in accordance with an order of the Tribunal.

- (2) A landlord, the landlord's agent or any other person authorised by the landlord may enter residential premises during a residential tenancy agreement without the consent of the tenant, after giving notice to the tenant, only in the following circumstances:
  - (a) to inspect the residential premises, not more than 4 times in any period of 12 months, if the tenant has been given not less than 7 days written notice each time,
  - (b) to carry out or assess the need for necessary repairs (other than urgent repairs) to, or maintenance of, the residential premises, if the tenant has been given not less than 2 days notice each time,
  - (c) to carry out, inspect or assess the need for work for the purpose of compliance with the landlord's statutory obligations relating to the health or safety of the residential premises, if the tenant has been given not less than 2 days notice each time,
  - (d) to value the property, not more than once in any period of 12 months, if the tenant is given not less than 7 days notice each time,
  - (e) to show the premises to prospective tenants, a reasonable number of times during the period of 14 days preceding the termination of the agreement, if the tenant is given reasonable notice each time,
  - (f) if the landlord and tenant fail to agree under section 53 to show the premises to prospective purchasers, not more than twice in any period of a week, if the tenant is given not less than 48 hours notice each time.
- (3) This section does not apply to any part of premises to which the tenant does not have the right of exclusive occupation.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **56 Entry with tenant's consent**

- (1) The landlord, the landlord's agent or any other person authorised by the landlord may enter the residential premises at any time during the residential tenancy agreement with the consent of the tenant.
- (2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

#### **57 Limits on entry by landlord or others without consent**

- (1) A landlord, the landlord's agent or other person who enters residential premises under a right to enter the premises without the consent of the tenant:
  - (a) must enter the premises between the hours of 8.00 am and 8.00 pm, and
  - (b) must not enter on a Sunday or a public holiday, and

- (c) must not stay on the residential premises longer than is necessary to achieve the purpose of the entry to the residential premises, and
  - (d) must, if practicable, notify the tenant of the proposed time and day of entry.
- (2) A person authorised by the landlord or landlord's agent must not enter residential premises under a right to enter the premises without the consent of the tenant unless:
- (a) the person first obtains the written consent of the landlord or landlord's agent, and
  - (b) the person produces the consent to the tenant if the tenant is at the premises.
- (3) This section does not apply to entry:
- (a) as agreed with the tenant, or
  - (b) in an emergency, or
  - (c) to carry out urgent repairs, or
  - (d) if the landlord forms a reasonable belief that the premises have been abandoned, or
  - (e) in accordance with an order of the Tribunal.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

**58 Duty of tenant to give access to residential premises**

- (1) A tenant must permit a landlord, landlord's agent or other person exercising a right of access to the residential premises in accordance with this Division to have access to the premises.
- (2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

**59 Landlord must only enter premises in accordance with Division**

- (1) A landlord, the landlord's agent or other person authorised by the landlord must not enter the residential premises during the residential tenancy agreement, except in accordance with this Division.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

**60 Landlord's remedies relating to access to premises**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make any of the following orders:
- (a) an order authorising the landlord or any other person to enter the residential



premises for a purpose permitted under this Division,

- (b) an order authorising the landlord or any other person to enter the residential premises for the purposes of showing the residential premises to prospective purchasers on a periodic basis,
- (c) an order authorising the landlord or any other person to enter the residential premises for the purpose of determining whether the tenant has breached a term of the residential tenancy agreement.

(2) The order may specify the days and times, and purposes for which, entry to the residential premises is authorised.

### **61 Tenant's remedies relating to access to premises**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, make an order specifying or limiting the days and times, and purposes for which, entry to the residential premises by a landlord, landlord's agent, agent for the sale of the residential premises or other persons is authorised.
- (2) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, order the landlord or the landlord's agent to pay compensation to the tenant for damage to or loss of the tenant's goods caused by any person in the exercise of a power of the landlord or landlord's agent to enter residential premises under this Act or the residential tenancy agreement.

## **Division 5 Repairs to premises**

### **62 Definitions**

In this Division:

**residential premises** includes everything provided with the premises (whether under the residential tenancy agreement or not) for use by the tenant.

**urgent repairs** means any work needed to repair any one or more of the following:

- (a) a burst water service,
- (b) an appliance, fitting or fixture that uses water or is used to supply water that is broken or not functioning properly, so that a substantial amount of water is being wasted,
- (c) a blocked or broken lavatory system,
- (d) a serious roof leak,
- (e) a gas leak,
- (f) a dangerous electrical fault,

- (g) flooding or serious flood damage,
- (h) serious storm or fire damage,
- (i) a failure or breakdown of the gas, electricity or water supply to the residential premises,
- (j) a failure or breakdown of any essential service on the residential premises for hot water, cooking, heating, cooling or laundering,
- (k) any fault or damage that causes the residential premises to be unsafe or insecure,
- (l) any other damage prescribed by the regulations,

but does not include work needed to repair premises that are owned by a person other than the landlord or a person having superior title (such as a head landlord) to the landlord.

### **63 Landlord's general obligation**

- (1) A landlord must provide and maintain the residential premises in a reasonable state of repair, having regard to the age of, rent payable for and prospective life of the premises.
- (2) A landlord's obligation to provide and maintain the residential premises in a reasonable state of repair applies even though the tenant had notice of the state of disrepair before entering into occupation of the residential premises.
- (3) A landlord is not in breach of the obligation to provide and maintain the residential premises in a reasonable state of repair if the state of disrepair is caused by the tenant's breach of this Part.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **64 Urgent repairs to residential premises**

- (1) A landlord must, not later than 14 days after being given a written notice from the tenant, reimburse the tenant for the reasonable costs of making urgent repairs to the residential premises.
- (2) A landlord is required to reimburse the costs only if:
  - (a) the state of disrepair did not result from a breach of the residential tenancy agreement by the tenant, and
  - (b) the tenant gave the landlord or the landlord's agent notice of the state of disrepair or made a reasonable attempt to do so, and
  - (c) the tenant gave the landlord or landlord's agent a reasonable opportunity to make

the repairs, if notice was given, and

- (d) the tenant has made a reasonable attempt to arrange for a licensed or otherwise properly qualified person nominated in the residential tenancy agreement to carry out the repairs, if such a person is so nominated, and
- (e) the repairs were carried out, if appropriate, by licensed or otherwise properly qualified persons, and
- (f) as soon as practicable after the repairs were carried out, the tenant gave the landlord or landlord's agent, or made a reasonable attempt to give the landlord or landlord's agent, a written notice setting out details of the repairs and the costs of the repairs, together with the receipts or copies of receipts for costs paid by the tenant.

- (3) The maximum amount that a tenant is entitled to be reimbursed under this section is \$1,000 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations.
- (4) Nothing in this section prevents a tenant, with the consent of the landlord, from making repairs to the residential premises and being reimbursed for the costs of those repairs.
- (5) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## 65 Tenants remedies for repairs

- (1) **Orders for which tenant may apply** The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, make any of the following orders:
  - (a) an order that the landlord carry out specified repairs,
  - (b) an order that the landlord reimburse the tenant an amount for urgent repairs carried out by the tenant.
- (2) **Orders for repairs** The Tribunal may make an order that the landlord carry out specified repairs only if it determines that the landlord has breached the obligation under this Act to maintain the residential premises in a reasonable state of repair, having regard to the age of, rent payable for and prospective life of the premises.
- (3) The Tribunal must not determine that a landlord has breached the obligation unless it is satisfied that:
  - (a) the landlord had notice of the need for the repair or ought reasonably to have known of the need for the repair, and
  - (b) the landlord failed to act with reasonable diligence to have the repair carried out.
- (4) **Reimbursement for urgent repairs** The Tribunal may order that the landlord reimburse the tenant an amount for urgent repairs carried out by the tenant if it is satisfied that

the landlord has failed to reimburse the tenant for the costs in accordance with this Division.

- (5) **Payment of rent into Tribunal** The Tribunal may order that all or part of the rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement be paid into the Tribunal until an order under this section has been complied with.

## **Division 6 Alterations and additions to residential premises**

### **66 Tenant must not make alterations to premises without consent**

- (1) A tenant must not, without the landlord's written consent or unless the residential tenancy agreement otherwise permits, install or cause to be installed a fixture or make or cause to be made any renovation, alteration or addition to the residential premises.
- (2) A landlord must not unreasonably withhold consent to a fixture, or to an alteration, addition or renovation that is of a minor nature.
- (3) A landlord may withhold consent to any other action by the tenant that is permitted under this section whether or not it is reasonable to do so.
- (4) A fixture installed by or on behalf of the tenant, or any renovation, alteration or addition to the residential premises by or on behalf of the tenant, is to be at the cost of the tenant, unless the landlord otherwise agrees.
- (5) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **67 Removal of fixtures installed by tenant**

- (1) A tenant may, at the tenant's cost and before the tenant gives vacant possession of the residential premises, remove any fixture that was installed by the tenant in accordance with this Act or the residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) A tenant must notify the landlord of any damage caused by removing a fixture and must repair the damage or compensate the landlord for the landlord's reasonable expenses of repairing the damage.
- (3) Despite subsection (1), a tenant is not entitled to remove a fixture without the consent of the landlord if the fixture was installed at the landlord's expense or the landlord provided the tenant with a benefit equivalent to the cost of the fixture.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

### **68 Tenants' remedies for alterations**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, make any of the following orders, if the landlord fails to consent:

- (a) an order that the tenant may install a fixture or make a renovation, alteration or addition to the residential premises,
  - (b) an order that the tenant is entitled to remove a fixture installed by the tenant.
- (2) The Tribunal may order that the tenant may install a fixture or make a renovation, alteration or addition to the residential premises only if it is satisfied:
- (a) that the landlord's failure to give consent is unreasonable, and
  - (b) if the consent is to a renovation, alteration or addition, that it is of a minor nature.
- (3) The Tribunal may determine that a landlord's failure to consent is reasonable in any of the following circumstances (but is not limited to those circumstances for such a determination):
- (a) if the work involves structural changes,
  - (b) if the work involves work that would not be reasonably capable of rectification, repair or removal,
  - (c) if the work involves internal or external painting of the residential premises,
  - (d) if the work is prohibited under any other law,
  - (e) if the work is not consistent with the nature of the property.

#### **69 Landlords' remedies for alterations**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make any of the following orders:
- (a) an order prohibiting the tenant from removing a fixture,
  - (b) an order that the tenant compensate the landlord for the cost of rectifying work done by or on behalf of the tenant on the residential premises.
- (2) The Tribunal may make an order under subsection (1) (b) only if the Tribunal is satisfied that:
- (a) the work was not done to a satisfactory standard, or
  - (b) the work, if not rectified, is likely to adversely affect the landlord's ability to let the residential premises to other tenants.
- (3) The Tribunal may make an order that the tenant compensate the landlord for the cost of rectifying work done by or on behalf of the tenant whether or not the landlord consented to the carrying out of the work.

## **Division 7 Security and safety of residential premises**

### **70 Locks and other security devices**

- (1) A landlord must provide and maintain the locks or other security devices necessary to ensure that the residential premises are reasonably secure.
- (2) A landlord or landlord's agent must give to each tenant named in the residential tenancy agreement a copy of the key or any other opening device or information required to open a lock or security device for the residential premises or common property to which the tenant is entitled to have access.
- (3) The initial copies are to be provided free of charge but the landlord may recover from a tenant the cost of providing replacement or additional copies.
- (4) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

**Note—**

Section 191 provides for matters to be considered by the Tribunal when determining an action for a breach of this Division.

### **71 Changes of locks and other security devices**

- (1) A landlord or tenant may alter, remove or add or cause or permit the alteration, removal or addition of a lock or other security device for the residential premises only if:
  - (a) the other party agrees, or
  - (b) with a reasonable excuse.
- (2) Without limiting what is a reasonable excuse, it is a reasonable excuse that a lock or other security device was altered, removed or added:
  - (a) in an emergency, or
  - (b) in accordance with an order of the Tribunal, or
  - (c) after the tenancy of a co-tenant was terminated, or
  - (d) after a tenant or occupant of residential premises was prohibited from having access to the residential premises by an apprehended violence order.
- (3) If a lock or other security device is altered, removed or added by a landlord or the tenant without the consent of the other party, it is presumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that it was altered, removed or added by the landlord or tenant without reasonable excuse.
- (4) A landlord or tenant who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

(5) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## **72 Copies of changed locks and other security devices to be given to other party**

(1) A copy of the key or any other opening device or information required to open a lock or other security device that is altered, added or removed by a landlord or tenant must be given to the other party not later than 7 days after it is altered, added or removed, unless:

(a) the other party agrees, or

(b) the Tribunal authorises a copy not to be given.

(2) This section does not require a copy of a key or other opening device or information to be given to a person who is prohibited from having access to the residential premises by an apprehended violence order.

(3) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## **73 Remedies for security of residential premises**

The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or tenant, make any of the following orders if it thinks it reasonable in the circumstances to do so:

(a) an order authorising the landlord or tenant to alter, remove or add or cause or permit the alteration, removal or addition of a lock or other security device,

(b) an order authorising the landlord or tenant to refuse to give to the other party a copy of a key or any other opening device or information,

(c) an order requiring a copy of a key or any other opening device or information to be given to the landlord or tenant.

## **Part 4 Changes of tenant and landlord**

### **74 Transfer of tenancy or sub-letting by tenant**

(1) A tenant may transfer the tenancy under a residential tenancy agreement to another person or sub-let the premises to another person, if the landlord gives written consent to the transfer or sub-letting.

(2) The landlord must not charge for giving consent to a transfer or sub-letting, other than for the reasonable expenses of giving consent.

(3) This section is a term of every residential tenancy agreement.

## 75 Consent to transfer of tenancy or sub-letting

- (1) **No requirement for reasonable refusal for whole transfer or sub-letting** The landlord may withhold consent to a transfer or sub-letting relating to the whole tenancy or residential premises whether or not it is reasonable to do so.
- (2) **Consent must not be unreasonably withheld for partial transfer or sub-letting** The landlord must not unreasonably withhold consent to a transfer of a tenancy or sub-letting of premises if the transfer results only in one or more tenants in addition to an original tenant under the residential tenancy agreement or the partial sub-letting of the residential premises occupied by the tenant.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the landlord is entitled to withhold consent if:
  - (a) the number of proposed occupants is more than the number permitted by the residential tenancy agreement or any applicable consent or approval under the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#), or
  - (b) the proposed tenant or sub-tenant is listed on a residential tenancy database in accordance with this Act, or
  - (c) the landlord is reasonably of the opinion that the transfer or sub-letting would result in the residential premises being overcrowded.
- (4) Subsections (1)–(3) are terms of every residential tenancy agreement. Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply if the landlord is a social housing provider.
- (5) **Remedy if landlord refuses consent** The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, order that the tenant may transfer a tenancy or sub-let residential premises as referred to in subsection (2) if the Tribunal is of the opinion that the landlord's failure to consent is unreasonable.

## 76 Notice of sale of residential premises by landlord

- (1) This section applies if residential premises subject to a tenancy are sold.
- (2) The landlord, landlord's agent or other person authorised by the landlord must give the tenant a notice of the sale containing the following:
  - (a) the name of the purchaser,
  - (b) a direction that the tenant pay all future rent to the purchaser.

### Note—

For the effect of such a notice on requirements at law for an attornment, see section 125 of the [Conveyancing Act 1919](#).



## **77 Recognition of certain persons as tenants**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a person who is occupying residential premises, make an order recognising the person as a tenant under a residential tenancy agreement or join the person as a party to any proceedings relating to the premises, or both.
- (2) The Tribunal may make an order if:
  - (a) the sole tenant under the residential tenancy agreement to which the premises are subject has died, or
  - (b) the tenant no longer occupies the premises.
- (3) An order under this section may:
  - (a) vest a tenancy over the residential premises in the occupant on such of the terms of the previous residential tenancy agreement as the Tribunal thinks appropriate, having regard to the circumstances of the case, and
  - (b) vest the tenancy from a date that is earlier than the order.
- (4) An application for an order under this section may be made at the same time as any other application or during proceedings before the Tribunal or independently of any such other application or proceedings.
- (5) This section does not apply if the landlord is a social housing provider.

## **78 Death of co-tenant**

- (1) On the death of a co-tenant leaving one or more other co-tenants under a residential tenancy agreement, the remaining co-tenants may continue the tenancy or give the landlord a termination notice that has a termination date not earlier than 21 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (2) If a tenancy is continued under this section, the remaining co-tenants are taken to be the only tenants under the residential tenancy agreement on and from the death of the deceased tenant.
- (3) This section applies whether or not the fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement has ended if it is a fixed term agreement.

## **79 Change of tenants after AVO**

- (1) **Termination of tenancy** On the making of a final apprehended violence order that prohibits a co-tenant or a tenant from having access to the residential premises, the tenancy of that co-tenant or tenant under the residential tenancy agreement is terminated. Such a termination does not affect the tenancy of any co-tenant not subject to the order.

- (2) **Tribunal may recognise occupant as tenant after AVO** The Tribunal may, on application by a remaining occupant or co-tenant, make an order recognising the remaining occupant as a tenant under the residential tenancy agreement, if the tenant, or a co-tenant or a former tenant or co-tenant is prohibited by a final apprehended violence order from having access to the residential premises.
- (3) **Orders** An order under this section may vest a tenancy over the residential premises in an occupant on such of the terms of the previous residential tenancy agreement as the Tribunal thinks appropriate having regard to the circumstances of the case.
- (4) An application for an order under this section may be made at the same time as any other application or during proceedings before the Tribunal or independently of any such other application or proceedings.
- (5) A Tribunal may not make an order under this section in respect of a social housing tenancy agreement unless the remaining occupant meets any applicable eligibility requirements of the social housing provider for tenancy of the premises.

## **Part 5 Termination of residential tenancy agreements**

### **Division 1 Termination of residential tenancy agreements generally**

#### **80 Definitions**

In this Part:

***non-payment termination notice***—see section 88.

***termination date*** means the day specified in a termination notice as the day on which the residential tenancy agreement is terminated and by which vacant possession of the residential premises is to be given.

***termination notice*** means a notice terminating a residential tenancy agreement.

***termination order*** means an order terminating a residential tenancy agreement together with an order for possession of the residential premises.

#### **81 Circumstances of termination of residential tenancies**

- (1) **Termination only as set out in Act** A residential tenancy agreement terminates only in the circumstances set out in this Act.
- (2) **Termination by notice and vacant possession** A residential tenancy agreement terminates if a landlord or tenant gives a termination notice in accordance with this Act and the tenant gives vacant possession of the residential premises.
- (3) **Termination by order of Tribunal** A residential tenancy agreement terminates if the Tribunal makes an order terminating the agreement under this Act.

- (4) **Other legal reasons for termination** A residential tenancy agreement terminates if any of the following occurs:
- (a) a person having superior title (such as a head landlord) to that of the landlord becomes entitled to possession of the residential premises,
  - (b) a mortgagee of the residential premises becomes entitled to possession of the premises to the exclusion of the tenant,
  - (c) a person who succeeds to the title of the landlord becomes entitled to possession of the residential premises to the exclusion of the tenant,
  - (d) the tenant abandons the residential premises,
  - (e) the tenant gives up possession of the residential premises with the landlord's consent, whether or not that consent is subsequently withdrawn,
  - (f) the interests of the landlord and tenant become vested in the one person (merger),
  - (g) disclaimer occurs (such as when the tenant's repudiation of the tenancy is accepted by the landlord).

## **82 Termination notices**

- (1) A termination notice must set out the following matters:
- (a) the residential premises concerned,
  - (b) the day on which the residential tenancy agreement is terminated and by which vacant possession of the premises is to be given,
  - (c) if the notice is not given under section 84, 85, 96 or 97, the ground for the notice,
  - (d) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) A termination notice must be in writing and be signed by the party giving the notice or the party's agent.
- (3) A termination notice for a periodic agreement may specify a day other than the last day of a period for the payment of rent as the termination date.

## **83 Termination orders**

- (1) If the Tribunal makes an order terminating a residential tenancy agreement under this Act, it must also make an order for possession of the residential premises specifying the day on which the order takes or took effect.
- (2) An application to the Tribunal by a landlord for a termination order:

- (a) must be made after the termination date specified in the relevant termination notice and within the period prescribed by the regulations, and
- (b) must be made only if vacant possession of the premises is not given as required by the notice.

## **Division 2 Termination by landlord**

### **84 End of residential tenancy agreement at end of fixed term tenancy**

- (1) A landlord may, at any time before the end of the fixed term of a fixed term agreement, give a termination notice for the agreement that is to take effect on or after the end of the fixed term.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is on or after the end of the fixed term and not earlier than 30 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) The Tribunal must, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that a termination notice was given in accordance with this section and the tenant has not vacated the premises as required by the notice.
- (4) This section does not apply to a residential tenancy agreement if the tenant has been in continual possession of the same residential premises for a period of 20 years or more and the fixed term of the original fixed term agreement has ended.

### **85 Termination of periodic agreement**

- (1) A landlord may, at any time, give a termination notice for a periodic agreement.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 90 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) The Tribunal must, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that a termination notice was given in accordance with this section and the tenant has not vacated the premises as required by the notice.
- (4) This section does not apply to a residential tenancy agreement if the tenant has been in continual possession of the same residential premises for a period of 20 years or more.

### **86 Sale of premises**

- (1) A landlord may give a termination notice on the ground that the landlord has entered into a contract for the sale of the residential premises under which the landlord is required to give vacant possession of the premises.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 30 days after the day on which the notice is given.

- (3) The landlord must not give a termination notice under this section that specifies a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.
- (4) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that:
  - (a) the landlord has entered into a contract for the sale of the residential premises that is proceeding under which the landlord is required to give vacant possession of the premises, and
  - (b) a termination notice was given in accordance with this section and the tenant has not vacated the premises as required by the notice.

### **87 Breach of agreement**

- (1) A landlord may give a termination notice on the ground that the tenant has breached the residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 14 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement if it is a fixed term agreement.
- (4) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that:
  - (a) the tenant has breached the residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) the breach is, in the circumstances of the case, sufficient to justify termination of the agreement, and
  - (c) the termination notice was given in accordance with this section and the tenant has not vacated the premises as required by the notice.
- (5) In considering the circumstances of the case, the Tribunal may consider (but is not limited to considering) the following:
  - (a) the nature of the breach,
  - (b) any previous breaches,
  - (c) any steps taken by the tenant to remedy the breach,
  - (d) any steps taken by the landlord about the breach,
  - (e) the previous history of the tenancy.
- (6) The Tribunal may refuse to make a termination order if it is satisfied that the tenant

has remedied the breach.

**Note—**

Section 154E sets out additional matters to be considered if the residential tenancy agreement is a social housing tenancy agreement.

**88 Termination notices for non-payment of rent**

- (1) A termination notice given by a landlord on the ground of a breach of the residential tenancy agreement solely arising from failure to pay rent (a **non-payment termination notice**) has no effect unless the rent has remained unpaid in breach of the agreement for not less than 14 days before the notice is given.
- (2) A non-payment termination notice is not ineffective merely because of any failure of the landlord or the landlord's agent to make a prior formal demand for payment of the rent.
- (3) A non-payment termination notice must inform the tenant that the tenant is not required to vacate the residential premises if the tenant pays all the rent owing or enters into, and fully complies with, a repayment plan agreed with the landlord, unless the Tribunal makes a termination order on the basis that the tenant has frequently failed to pay rent on time.
- (4) Despite any other provision of this Part, a landlord may apply to the Tribunal for a termination order before the termination date specified in a non-payment termination notice. The Tribunal must not consider any such application until after the termination date.

**89 Repayment of rent owing following issue of non-payment termination notice**

- (1) This section applies if a landlord gives a tenant a non-payment termination notice.
- (2) The Tribunal must not make a termination order on the ground set out in the notice if the tenant pays all the rent owing or enters into, and fully complies with, a repayment plan agreed with the landlord.
- (3) A termination of the residential tenancy agreement solely on the ground of non-payment of rent, and any warrant for possession issued as a result of any order for possession, cease to have effect if the tenant pays all the rent owing or enters into, and fully complies with, a repayment plan agreed with the landlord and the tenant has not vacated the residential premises.
- (4) If a tenant repays all the rent owing or enters into, and fully complies with, a repayment plan agreed with the landlord, the landlord must notify:
  - (a) the Tribunal, if the landlord has applied to the Tribunal for a termination order on the ground of non-payment of rent and the application has not been finally dealt

with, or

- (b) the Sheriff, if a termination order has been made and a warrant for possession of the residential premises has been issued but has not been enforced by the Sheriff.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (5) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order despite subsection (2) or (3) if it is satisfied that the tenant has frequently failed to pay rent owing for the residential premises on or before the day set out in the residential tenancy agreement.
- (6) If the Tribunal makes a termination order as referred to in subsection (5), a warrant for possession may be issued as a result of that order, even if the tenant has paid all rent owing or complied with a repayment plan.

#### **90 Serious damage or injury by tenant or other occupant**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that the tenant, or any person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the residential premises, has intentionally or recklessly caused or permitted:
  - (a) serious damage to the residential premises or any neighbouring property (including any property available for use by the tenant in common with others), or
  - (b) injury to the landlord, the landlord's agent, an employee or contractor of the landlord or the landlord's agent, or an occupier or person on neighbouring property or premises used in common with the tenant.
- (2) The termination order may specify that the order for possession takes effect immediately.
- (3) A landlord may make an application under this section without giving the tenant a termination notice.
- (4) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.
- (5) In this section:
  - neighbouring property** means:
    - (a) property adjoining or adjacent to the residential premises, or
    - (b) property owned by the landlord in the general locality of the residential premises.

## **91 Use of premises for illegal purposes**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that the tenant, or any person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the residential premises, has intentionally or recklessly caused or permitted:
  - (a) the use of the residential premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to the premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others) for the purposes of the manufacture, sale, cultivation or supply of any prohibited drug within the meaning of the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985*, or
  - (b) the use of the residential premises for any other unlawful purpose and that the use is sufficient to justify the termination.
- (2) In considering whether to make a termination order on the ground specified in subsection (1) (b), the Tribunal may consider (but is not limited to considering) the following:
  - (a) the nature of the unlawful use,
  - (b) any previous unlawful uses,
  - (c) the previous history of the tenancy.
- (3) The termination order may specify that the order for possession takes effect immediately.
- (4) A landlord may make an application under this section without giving the tenant a termination notice.
- (5) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.

## **92 Tribunal may terminate residential tenancy agreement for threat, abuse, intimidation or harassment**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that the tenant, or any person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the residential premises, has:
  - (a) seriously or persistently threatened or abused the landlord, the landlord's agent or any employee or contractor of the landlord or landlord's agent, or caused or permitted any such threats, abuse or conduct, or
  - (b) intentionally engaged, or intentionally caused or permitted another person to engage, in conduct in relation to any such person that would be reasonably likely to cause the person to be intimidated or harassed (whether or not any abusive



language or threat has been directed towards the person).

- (2) The termination order may specify that the order for possession takes effect immediately.
- (3) A landlord may make an application under this section without giving the tenant a termination notice.
- (4) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.

### **93 Hardship to landlord**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that the landlord would, in the special circumstances of the case, suffer undue hardship if the residential tenancy agreement were not terminated.
- (2) The Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, also order the landlord to pay compensation to the tenant for the tenant's loss of the tenancy.
- (3) The tenant must take all reasonable steps to mitigate the loss and is not entitled to compensation for any loss that could have been reasonably avoided by the tenant.
- (4) A landlord may make an application under this section without giving the tenant a termination notice.
- (5) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.

### **94 Termination of long term tenancies**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order for a residential tenancy agreement:
  - (a) if the tenant has been in continual possession of the same residential premises for a period of 20 years or more, and
  - (b) if the tenant occupied the premises under a fixed term agreement, the fixed term of the original agreement has expired, and
  - (c) if the Tribunal is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so in the circumstances of the case.
- (2) A landlord may make an application under this section without giving the tenant a termination notice.
- (3) The Tribunal must not make a termination order under this section that specifies a

termination date that is before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.

- (4) The Tribunal, in determining the day on which vacant possession of the residential premises is to be given to the landlord, must not order that vacant possession be given earlier than 90 days after the order is made.

### **95 Occupants remaining in residential premises**

- (1) This section applies if the tenant under a residential tenancy agreement who occupied or partly occupied the residential premises with another occupant no longer resides in the residential premises and the residential tenancy agreement has been terminated.
- (2) The landlord may give any remaining occupant of the residential premises a notice requiring the occupant to give vacant possession of the premises within a period of not less than 14 days.
- (3) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make an order for possession of the residential premises specifying the day on which the order for possession takes effect if it is satisfied that:
  - (a) notice was given in accordance with this section, and
  - (b) the occupant has not vacated the premises, and
  - (c) the tenant no longer resides in the premises.
- (4) The Tribunal is not to make an order for possession of the residential premises if the tenant is prohibited by an apprehended violence order from having access to the residential premises while the occupant resides in the premises and the occupant has not had a reasonable opportunity to obtain a final apprehended violence order and to apply to the Tribunal for an order under section 79.

## **Division 3 Termination by tenant**

### **96 End of fixed term agreement**

- (1) A tenant may, at any time before the end of the fixed term of a fixed term agreement, give a termination notice for the agreement that is to take effect on or after the end of the fixed term.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is on or after the end of the fixed term and is not earlier than 14 days after the day on which the notice is given.

### **97 Termination of periodic agreement by tenant**

- (1) A tenant may, at any time, give a termination notice for a periodic agreement.

- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 21 days after the day on which the notice is given.

**98 Breach of agreement—termination notice by tenant**

- (1) A tenant may give a termination notice on the ground that the landlord has breached the residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 14 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement if it is a fixed term agreement.
- (4) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord made before the termination date and within the period prescribed by the regulations, revoke a termination notice by a tenant if satisfied that the landlord has remedied the breach and that it is appropriate, in the circumstances of the case, to continue the tenancy.

**Note—**

The tenant may apply directly to the Tribunal on the ground of breach by the landlord for a termination order without first giving notice (see section 103).

**99 Rent increases during long-term fixed term leases—termination notice by tenant**

- (1) This section applies to a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of 2 years or more.
- (2) A tenant may give a termination notice on the ground that the rent has been increased.
- (3) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 21 days after the day on which the notice is given and must be given before the rent increase takes effect.
- (4) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term.
- (5) The tenant is not liable to pay any compensation or other additional amount for the early termination of the agreement.

**100 Early termination without compensation to landlord**

- (1) A tenant may give a termination notice for a fixed term agreement on any of the following grounds:
  - (a) that the tenant has been offered, and accepted, accommodation in social housing premises,
  - (b) that the tenant has accepted a place in an aged care facility or requires care in

such a facility,

(c) that the landlord has notified the tenant of the landlord's intention to sell the residential premises, unless the landlord disclosed the proposed sale of the premises before entering into the residential tenancy agreement as required by section 26,

(d) that a co-tenant or occupant or former co-tenant or occupant is prohibited by a final apprehended violence order from having access to the residential premises.

- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 14 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement.
- (4) The tenant is not liable to pay any compensation or other additional amount for the early termination of the agreement.

#### **101 Termination by co-tenant of own tenancy**

- (1) A co-tenant may give a termination notice to the landlord and each other co-tenant if the fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement has ended or the agreement is a periodic agreement.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 21 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) A co-tenant ceases to be a tenant under the residential tenancy agreement on the termination date if the co-tenant gives a termination notice in accordance with this section and vacates the residential premises.
- (4) The Tribunal may, on application by a co-tenant, make a termination order for the residential tenancy agreement if it is satisfied that a termination notice was given by another co-tenant in accordance with this section.

#### **102 Termination of agreement or co-tenancies by Tribunal**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a co-tenant, make any of the following orders:
  - (a) an order terminating the tenancy of the co-tenant or another co-tenant under the residential tenancy agreement from a date specified in the order,
  - (b) an order terminating the residential tenancy agreement,
  - (c) any necessary ancillary orders relating to the residential tenancy agreement or liabilities under that agreement.
- (2) The Tribunal may make an order under this section if it is of the opinion that it is

appropriate to do so in the special circumstances of the case.

- (3) If the Tribunal terminates the tenancy of one or more, but not all, of the co-tenants under the residential tenancy agreement, the Tribunal must, in the order terminating the tenancy, specify the day on which the tenants whose tenancies are terminated must vacate the residential premises.
- (3A) Such an order is taken to be an order for possession of the residential premises in favour of the remaining tenant or co-tenants.

**Note—**

Section 121 provides that a warrant for possession may be issued on the application of a person in whose favour an order for possession is made.

- (4) The Tribunal may order a co-tenant under a residential tenancy agreement that is terminated under this section before the end of the fixed term of a fixed term agreement to pay an amount, not exceeding the applicable break fee for the tenancy specified in section 107.
- (5) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.
- (6) The Tribunal must give the landlord notice of an application under this section. The landlord has a right to be heard in the proceedings.
- (7) An application may be made under this section whether or not a termination notice has been given under section 101.

**103 Breach of agreement—termination by Tribunal**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, make a termination order if it is satisfied that:
  - (a) the landlord has breached the residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) the breach is, in the circumstances of the case, sufficient to justify termination of the agreement.
- (2) In considering the circumstances of the case, the Tribunal may consider (but is not limited to considering) the following:
  - (a) the nature of the breach,
  - (b) any previous breaches,
  - (c) any steps taken by the landlord to remedy the breach,
  - (d) any steps taken by the tenant about the breach,

(e) the previous history of the tenancy.

- (3) The Tribunal may refuse to make a termination order if it is satisfied that the landlord has remedied the breach.
- (4) A tenant may make an application under this section without giving the landlord a termination notice.
- (5) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.

#### **104 Hardship to tenant—fixed term agreements**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant, make a termination order for a fixed term agreement if it is satisfied that the tenant would, in the special circumstances of the case, suffer undue hardship if the residential tenancy agreement were not terminated.
- (2) The Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, also order the tenant to pay compensation to the landlord for the landlord's loss of the tenancy. The amount of compensation must not exceed the amount specified as the applicable break fee for the tenancy under section 107.
- (3) The landlord must take all reasonable steps to mitigate the loss and is not entitled to compensation for any loss that could have been reasonably avoided by the landlord.
- (4) A tenant may make an application under this section without giving the landlord a termination notice.
- (5) The Tribunal may make a termination order under this section that takes effect before the end of the fixed term if the residential tenancy agreement is a fixed term agreement.

#### **105 Termination by Tribunal on landlord's application after termination notice given by tenant**

The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make a termination order if it is satisfied that:

- (a) a termination notice was given by a tenant in accordance with this Division, and
- (b) the tenant did not revoke the termination notice before the termination date, and
- (c) the tenant has not vacated the residential premises as required by the notice.

## Division 4 Abandonment of residential premises

### 106 Abandoned premises

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make an order declaring that the tenant abandoned the residential premises on a specified day.
- (2) The tenant is taken to have abandoned the residential premises on the specified day.
- (3) The landlord may take immediate possession of residential premises that have been abandoned by the tenant if there are no remaining occupants.

#### Note—

The residential tenancy agreement is terminated if a tenant abandons the residential premises (see section 81 (4) (d)).

- (4) In determining whether a tenant has abandoned the residential premises the Tribunal may consider (but is not limited to considering) the following:
  - (a) the failure by the tenant to pay rent under the residential tenancy agreement,
  - (b) any evidence that the tenant no longer resides at the premises,
  - (c) any failure by the tenant to carry out any obligations relating to the residential premises under the residential tenancy agreement.

### 107 Landlord's remedies on abandonment

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, order a tenant to pay compensation to the landlord for any loss (including loss of rent) caused by the abandonment of the residential premises by the tenant.
- (2) The landlord must take all reasonable steps to mitigate the loss and is not entitled to compensation for any loss that could have been avoided by taking those steps. This subsection does not apply in the case of a fixed term agreement that provides for the payment of a break fee.
- (3) The compensation payable by a tenant under this section in respect of a fixed term agreement is the amount of the applicable break fee for the tenancy, if the agreement provides for the payment of a break fee.
- (4) The **break fee** for a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of not more than 3 years is:
  - (a) an amount equal to 6 weeks rent if less than half of the fixed term had expired when the premises were abandoned, or
  - (b) an amount equal to 4 weeks rent in any other case.
- (5) The **break fee** for a fixed term agreement for a fixed term of more than 3 years is the

amount set out in subsection (4) or, if an amount is specified in the agreement, the amount specified. An agreement must not specify a break fee exceeding the amount (if any) specified by the regulations.

- (6) The amount of any money paid by a tenant to a landlord on terminating a fixed term agreement before the end of the fixed term or before otherwise abandoning the premises (other than money previously due to the landlord under the residential tenancy agreement) is to be deducted from any amount payable to the landlord under this section.
- (7) This section does not prevent a landlord from obtaining an occupation fee under Division 2 of Part 6 for goods left on the residential premises.

## **Division 5 Termination by events**

### **108 Death of tenant**

- (1) On the death of the sole tenant under a residential tenancy agreement, either the landlord or the legal personal representative of the tenant may give a termination notice to the other person.
- (2) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of any fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement if it is a fixed term agreement.
- (3) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or the legal personal representative of the deceased tenant, make a termination order if it is satisfied that a termination notice was given in accordance with this section and that vacant possession of the residential premises has not been given as required by the notice.
- (4) The legal personal representative of a deceased tenant who is given a termination notice by the landlord may give vacant possession of the residential premises at any time before the termination date specified in the termination notice.
- (5) The estate of the deceased tenant is not liable to pay any rent for any period after the legal personal representative gives vacant possession of the residential premises and before the termination date.

### **109 Agreement frustrated—destruction of, or uninhabitable, premises**

- (1) This section applies if residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement are, otherwise than as a result of a breach of an agreement, destroyed or become wholly or partly uninhabitable or cease to be lawfully usable as a residence or are appropriated or acquired by any authority by compulsory process.
- (2) The landlord or the tenant may give the other party a termination notice.
- (3) The termination notice may end the residential tenancy agreement on the date that the notice is given.



- (4) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term of the residential tenancy agreement if it is a fixed term agreement.
- (5) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or tenant, make a termination order if it is satisfied that a termination notice was given in accordance with this section and that this section applies to the residential premises.

## **Division 6 Miscellaneous**

### **110 Tenant may vacate at any time before termination date specified by landlord**

- (1) A tenant who is given a termination notice by the landlord, or who gives a termination notice, may give vacant possession of the residential premises at any time before the termination date.
- (2) If a termination notice is given by a landlord, the tenant is not liable to pay any rent for any period after the tenant gives vacant possession of the residential premises and before the termination date.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not affect the liability of a tenant under a fixed term agreement to pay rent in respect of a period after the tenant gives vacant possession of the residential premises and before the end of the fixed term, if the termination notice is given by the landlord in accordance with section 84.

### **111 Disputes about termination**

- (1) A landlord or tenant may apply to the Tribunal for an order in relation to a dispute about a termination notice.
- (2) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or tenant, declare that a termination notice was or was not given in accordance with this Part.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not limit any other order the Tribunal may make on an application under this section.

### **112 Withdrawal of termination notices**

The party who gives a termination notice may, at any time, revoke the notice with the consent of all other parties to the residential tenancy agreement.

### **113 Defects in termination notices**

The Tribunal may make a termination order for a residential tenancy agreement or any other order even though there is a defect in the relevant termination notice or the manner of service of the notice if:

- (a) it thinks it appropriate to do so in the circumstances of the case, and
- (b) it is satisfied that the person to whom the notice was given has not suffered any

disadvantage because of the defect in the notice or service or that any disadvantage has been overcome by the order and any associated order.

#### **114 Suspension of possession orders**

- (1) The Tribunal may suspend the operation of an order for possession of residential premises for a specified period if it is satisfied that it is desirable to do so, having regard to the relative hardship likely to be caused to the landlord and tenant by the suspension.
- (2) The Tribunal may impose an obligation on a tenant to pay a specified occupation fee for the period for which the order for possession is suspended.

#### **115 Retaliatory evictions**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a tenant or when considering an application for a termination order or in relation to a termination notice:
  - (a) declare that a termination notice has no effect, or
  - (b) refuse to make a termination order,if it is satisfied that a termination notice given or application made by the landlord was a retaliatory notice or a retaliatory application.
- (2) The Tribunal may find that a termination notice is a retaliatory notice or that an application is a retaliatory application if it is satisfied that the landlord was wholly or partly motivated to give the notice or make the application for any of the following reasons:
  - (a) the tenant had applied or proposed to apply to the Tribunal for an order,
  - (b) the tenant had taken or proposed to take any other action to enforce a right of the tenant under the residential tenancy agreement, this Act or any other law,
  - (c) an order of the Tribunal was in force in relation to the landlord and tenant.
- (3) A tenant may make an application to the Tribunal for a declaration under this section before the termination date and within the period prescribed by the regulations after the termination notice is given to the tenant.

#### **116 Accrual of rent on termination**

The rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement accrues from day to day and on termination the appropriate amount is payable.

#### **117 Acceptance of rent after termination notice**

- (1) A demand for, any proceedings for the recovery of, or acceptance of, rent payable

under a residential tenancy agreement by a landlord does not operate as a waiver of any rights with respect to the breach of the agreement or any termination notice by the landlord on the ground of breach of the agreement.

- (2) Any such action by a landlord is not evidence of the creation of a new tenancy.
- (3) This section does not apply to a termination notice given solely on the ground of failure to pay rent.

### **118 Other notices**

To avoid doubt, a landlord or tenant who gives a termination notice may:

- (a) if the notice is revoked, give a further notice on the same or a different ground, or
- (b) if the notice is not revoked, give a further notice on a different ground.

## **Part 6 Recovery of possession of premises**

### **Division 1 Recovery of possession**

#### **119 Prohibition on certain recovery proceedings in courts**

A landlord or former landlord must not commence proceedings against a tenant or former tenant of the landlord in the Supreme Court, the District Court or the Local Court to obtain recovery of possession of residential premises subject to a residential tenancy agreement.

#### **120 Repossession of residential premises—offences**

- (1) A person must not enter residential premises for the purposes of taking possession of those premises before or after the end of a residential tenancy agreement unless:
  - (a) the person is acting in accordance with a warrant arising out of an order for possession of the Tribunal or a writ or warrant arising out of a judgment or order of a court, or
  - (b) the tenant has abandoned the premises or given vacant possession of the premises.

Maximum penalty: 200 penalty units.

#### **Note—**

Under section 106 a landlord may apply to the Tribunal for an order declaring that a tenant has abandoned the residential premises.

- (2) A court that finds an offence under this section proven may, in addition to any other penalty it may impose, order that compensation be paid to the person against whom the offence was committed by the person who committed the offence or on whose behalf the offence was committed.

- (3) This section applies to a person who enters residential premises on his or her own behalf or on behalf of another person.

### **121 Enforcement of orders for possession**

- (1) The principal registrar of the Tribunal may, on the application of a person in whose favour an order for possession was made, issue a warrant for possession of the residential premises concerned if the principal registrar is satisfied that the order or a condition of suspension of the order has not been complied with.
- (2) An application for a warrant for possession may be made immediately, if the order for possession so provides, or not more than 30 days after the date by which vacant possession was required or within such further period as the Tribunal may permit.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the Tribunal may permit an application to be made within a further period if the delay in making the application is attributable to genuine attempts by the applicant to reach agreement with the tenant for reinstatement of the tenancy.
- (4) A warrant for possession is to be in the form approved by the principal registrar of the Tribunal and must authorise a sheriff's officer to enter specified residential premises and to give possession to the person specified in the warrant.

**Note—**

See section 7A of the [Sheriff Act 2005](#) for provisions relating to the enforcement of warrants.

### **122 Mortgagee repossessions of rented properties**

- (1) **Application** This section applies if a residential tenancy agreement is terminated because the mortgagee in respect of the residential premises becomes entitled to possession of the premises and the former tenant under that agreement is given notice to vacate the premises by the Sheriff.

**Note—**

The Sheriff must give the former tenant not less than 30 days to vacate the residential premises (see section 7A of the [Sheriff Act 2005](#)).

- (2) **Former tenant may withhold or recoup rent etc** The former tenant who is holding over after termination of the residential tenancy agreement:
- (a) is not, during the period of 30 days following the date on which the tenant is given the notice to vacate, required to pay any rent, fee or other charge to occupy the residential premises, and
- (b) is, if the former tenant has paid any rent in advance for any part of that period, entitled to be repaid the amount of that rent.
- (3) **Tribunal may order repayment to former tenant** The Tribunal may, on application by the former tenant, order the repayment to the former tenant of any amount referred to in

subsection (2).

- (4) **Inspection of residential premises by prospective purchasers** The mortgagee (or any person acting on behalf of the mortgagee) is, during the period in which the former tenant is holding over after termination of the residential tenancy agreement, entitled to enter the residential premises to show the premises to prospective purchasers on a reasonable number of occasions, but only if the former tenant:
- (a) is given reasonable notice of each such occasion, and
  - (b) agrees to the date and time of the inspection.
- (5) **Mortgagee not prevented from doing certain things** This section does not prevent the mortgagee from:
- (a) taking possession of the residential premises before the date specified in the notice to vacate if the former tenant voluntarily vacates the premises before that date, or
  - (b) changing (by written notice given to the Sheriff and the former tenant) the date specified in the notice to vacate to a later date, or
  - (c) entering into a new residential tenancy agreement with the former tenant in respect of the residential premises.
- (6) **Relationship with other laws** This section has effect despite the terms of any court order, contract or other agreement.

### **123 Liability of tenant remaining in possession after termination**

- (1) A tenant who fails to comply with an order for possession of the Tribunal is liable to pay an occupation fee to the landlord for the period the tenant remains in possession of the residential premises after the date the tenant is required to vacate the premises.
- (2) The occupation fee payable is an amount equal to the rent that would have been payable for that period if the residential tenancy agreement had not been terminated.
- (3) The amount of the occupation fee may be deducted from the rental bond paid by the tenant for the residential premises.
- (4) The Tribunal may, on application by the landlord, order the tenant to pay to the landlord an amount of occupation fee.

### **124 Notice of proposed recovery of premises by person with superior title**

- (1) This section applies if proceedings for the recovery of possession of residential premises are commenced before a court or the Tribunal (whether under this Act or otherwise) by a person (the **plaintiff**) who is not the landlord or former landlord under

the agreement.

- (2) The court or Tribunal must not give judgment or make an order for possession, unless it is satisfied:
  - (a) as to whether or not there is a person in possession of the residential premises as a tenant under a residential tenancy agreement or a former tenant holding over after termination of a residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) that any such person has had reasonable notice of the proceedings brought by the plaintiff.
- (3) Failure to comply with this section does not invalidate or otherwise affect the judgment or order.

### **125 Order for tenancy against person with superior title**

- (1) This section applies if proceedings for the recovery of possession of residential premises are commenced before a court or the Tribunal (whether under this Act or otherwise) by a person (the **plaintiff**) who is not the landlord or former landlord under the agreement.
- (2) An application may be made under this section by a person who is or was, when the proceedings were commenced, in possession of the residential premises as:
  - (a) a tenant under a residential tenancy agreement, or
  - (b) a former tenant holding over after termination of a residential tenancy agreement.
- (3) The application may be made to:
  - (a) the court or Tribunal before which the proceedings are pending, or
  - (b) if the proceedings have been completed—the Tribunal,and must be made within the period prescribed by the regulations after the applicant was given notice of the proceedings or (if no notice was given) within a reasonable time after the completion of the proceedings and before possession of the premises is recovered.
- (4) The court or Tribunal may, on such an application, and if it thinks it appropriate to do so in the special circumstances of the case, make an order vesting a tenancy over the residential premises in the applicant.
- (5) The plaintiff is to be the landlord under the tenancy and the tenancy is to be on such terms and conditions as the court or Tribunal thinks fit, having regard to the circumstances of the case.
- (6) Such an application or order may be made before possession of the premises is

recovered, even though:

- (a) notice was not given to the applicant of the proceedings brought by the plaintiff, or
- (b) the proceedings brought by the plaintiff have been completed.

## **Division 2 Goods left on residential premises**

### **126 Application and interpretation**

- (1) This Division (other than section 134 (2A)) applies to goods or rubbish left behind on residential premises by a tenant or an occupant of the premises after vacant possession of the premises is obtained or the premises are abandoned.
- (2) In this Division:

**disposal notice** means a notice given under section 127.

**perishable goods** means perishable goods or rubbish to which this Division applies.

**personal document** means:

- (a) a birth certificate, passport or other identity document, or
- (b) bank books or other financial statements or documents, or
- (c) photographs and other personal memorabilia, or
- (d) licences or other documents conferring authorities, rights or qualifications, or
- (e) any other record, or class of record, prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

### **127 Disposal notices**

- (1) The landlord or landlord's agent must give the former tenant notice that the goods will be disposed of after 14 days (in the case of goods other than personal documents) or 90 days (in the case of personal documents) after the day on which the notice is given unless they are first claimed.
- (2) Notice may be given in any of the following ways:
  - (a) in writing in any manner permitted under this Act,
  - (b) by post to the former tenant or the former tenant's legal personal representative at the last forwarding address known to the landlord,
  - (c) orally in person or by telephoning the former tenant.
- (3) Notice may be given by posting a notice in a prominent position on the residential

premises if the landlord is unable (for a period of more than 2 days) to give notice to the former tenant in a manner set out in subsection (2).

(4) This section does not apply to perishable goods.

### **128 Perishable goods**

A landlord or landlord's agent may remove or otherwise dispose of goods that the landlord or landlord's agent reasonably believes are perishable goods at any time after vacant possession of the residential premises is given or the residential premises are abandoned.

### **129 Storage of goods**

The landlord or landlord's agent may remove goods from residential premises and store them in a safe place pending disposal or collection of the goods in accordance with this Division.

### **130 Disposal of non-perishable goods (other than personal documents)**

- (1) The landlord or landlord's agent may dispose of goods (other than personal documents) in accordance with this section if the former tenant or other person entitled to possession of the goods fails to collect or make arrangements to collect the goods within 14 days of a disposal notice being given in accordance with this Division or within such further period as may be agreed.
- (2) The landlord or landlord's agent may dispose of any such goods by selling them or in any other lawful manner.
- (3) The landlord or landlord's agent must keep a record of goods disposed of under this section.
- (4) A landlord or landlord's agent who sells goods under this section must, if requested to do so by the former tenant or other person entitled to possession of the goods, pay the sale proceeds to the former tenant or other person. The landlord or landlord's agent may deduct from the proceeds an occupation fee calculated in accordance with section 132 and the reasonable costs of the sale.
- (5) This section does not apply to perishable goods.

### **131 Disposal of personal documents**

- (1) The landlord or landlord's agent may dispose of goods that are personal documents in accordance with this section if the former tenant or other person entitled to possession of the documents fails to collect or make arrangements to collect the documents within 90 days of a disposal notice being given in accordance with this Division or within such further period as may be agreed.
- (2) The landlord or landlord's agent may dispose of personal documents as follows:



- (a) by returning them to the authority that issued the documents,
  - (b) if it is not reasonably practicable to return them to that authority, in any other lawful manner that the landlord or landlord's agent thinks fit.
- (3) The landlord or landlord's agent must not dispose of personal documents in any manner that results in personal information about a tenant or other person becoming publicly available.

### **132 Collection of goods by former tenants or persons entitled to goods**

- (1) A person who is entitled to possession of goods may claim the goods at any time before they are disposed of.
- (2) The landlord or landlord's agent must deliver up the goods to a person who claims them if the landlord or landlord's agent is satisfied that the person is entitled to the goods.
- (3) The landlord or landlord's agent must not require a person who claims goods to pay any amount to obtain them, other than an occupation fee in accordance with this section.
- (4) The landlord or landlord's agent may require a former tenant or person who claims goods to pay an occupation fee for each day the goods are left on the residential premises or stored by or on behalf of the landlord, if the quantity of goods left on the premises by a former tenant or occupant is sufficient to prevent the landlord from renting the premises.
- (5) The occupation fee payable under this section:
  - (a) must not exceed an amount that is equal to the rent that would have been payable under the residential tenancy agreement for each day the goods are left on the premises or stored, and
  - (b) must not exceed, in total, the amount of rent for 14 days.
- (6) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or landlord's agent, order that a former tenant or person who claims goods pay to the landlord or landlord's agent an occupation fee of an amount that does not exceed the maximum amount payable under this section.

### **133 Landlord may seek Tribunal direction**

- (1) This section applies if the tenant abandons the residential premises or dies.
- (2) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord, make any one or more of the following orders:
  - (a) an order authorising the removal or other disposal of goods,

- (b) an order directing that notice of any action or proposed action in relation to goods be given to the former tenant, the legal personal representative of a former tenant or any other person,
  - (c) an order authorising the sale of goods,
  - (d) an order as to the manner of sale of goods,
  - (e) an order as to the payment of the proceeds of sale of goods,
  - (f) any ancillary order that the Tribunal, in the circumstances, thinks appropriate.
- (3) A landlord or landlord's agent must deal with goods in accordance with an order of the Tribunal under this section and not in accordance with the other provisions of this Division relating to disposal of goods.
- (4) This section does not apply to perishable goods.

#### **134 Orders by Tribunal relating to goods**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by the former tenant or a person who has an interest in goods, make any of the following orders:
- (a) an order requiring the landlord to pay compensation for goods disposed of by the landlord or landlord's agent otherwise than in accordance with this Division,
  - (b) an order requiring the landlord to pay compensation for goods damaged after being left on the residential premises and before being claimed by the person entitled to them,
  - (c) an order that the landlord or landlord's agent deliver goods into the former tenant's or other person's possession,
  - (d) an order requiring the landlord or landlord's agent to pay the proceeds of sale, or an amount equivalent to the value of the goods, to the former tenant or person,
  - (e) any ancillary order that the Tribunal, in the circumstances, thinks appropriate.
- (2) The Tribunal may also, on an application under this section or by a landlord, order the tenant or other person to pay an occupation fee of not more than 14 days rent.
- (2A) The Tribunal may, on application by a former co-tenant, make an order requiring a tenant or co-tenant, or a tenant or co-tenant's agent, to deliver goods left behind on residential premises by the former co-tenant after the co-tenant vacated the premises (in circumstances where one or more other tenants or co-tenants continue to occupy the premises) into the former co-tenant's possession.
- (3) An application for an order under this section must be made within the period prescribed by the regulations.

### 135 Effect of disposal of goods

- (1) A purchaser of goods sold by a landlord or landlord's agent in accordance with this Division acquires a good title to the goods freed and discharged of any interest of the former tenant or any other person who would otherwise have an interest in the goods.
- (2) A person does not incur any liability in respect of the removal or sale or other disposal of goods in accordance with this Division or in accordance with an order of the Tribunal.

## Part 7 Social housing tenancy agreements

### Division 1 Preliminary

#### 136 Definitions

In this Part:

**alternative premises ground** for termination of a social housing tenancy agreement—see section 148.

**appropriate Minister** means, in relation to:

- (a) the Aboriginal Housing Office or an organisation registered under Part 5 of the [Aboriginal Housing Act 1998](#) or a tenant of the Office or organisation, the Minister administering that Act, or
- (b) any other social housing provider or a tenant of the social housing provider, the Minister administering the [Housing Act 2001](#).

**eligibility ground** for termination of a social housing tenancy agreement—see section 143.

**rent rebate** means an amount waived or remitted, in accordance with a rent rebate scheme administered by a social housing provider, from rent payable to a social housing provider.

**social housing premises** means residential premises under a social housing tenancy agreement.

**social housing provider** means any of the following:

- (a) the New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation,
- (b) the Aboriginal Housing Office,
- (c) a registered community housing provider within the meaning of the *Community Housing Providers National Law (NSW)*,

- (d) an organisation for the time being registered under Part 5 of the *Aboriginal Housing Act 1998*,
- (e) an organisation or a member of a class of organisations prescribed by the regulations.

**social housing tenancy agreement** means a residential tenancy agreement where the landlord is a social housing provider.

### 137 Application of Part

In the event of any inconsistency between a provision of this Part and any other provision of this Act or the regulations, this Part prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

## Division 2 Acceptable behaviour agreements

### 138 Acceptable behaviour agreements for tenants

- (1) The New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation may, by notice in writing given to a tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement under which it is the landlord, request the tenant to give a written undertaking (an **acceptable behaviour agreement**), in the terms specified in the notice, not to engage in specified anti-social behaviour on any of the following:
  - (a) the social housing premises to which the agreement relates,
  - (b) any property adjoining or adjacent to those premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others).
- (2) The operation of an acceptable behaviour agreement extends to the behaviour of any other person occupying (or jointly occupying) the social housing premises with the consent of the tenant (a **lawful occupier**). Accordingly, if any such lawful occupier engages in any anti-social behaviour that is specified in the agreement, the tenant is taken to have engaged in the behaviour and breached the agreement.
- (3) The Corporation may request a tenant to enter into an acceptable behaviour agreement only if the Corporation is of the opinion that, based on:
  - (a) the history of the tenancy concerned, or
  - (b) the history of any prior tenancy under a social housing tenancy agreement entered into by the tenant and the Corporation,the tenant, or a lawful occupier of the premises to which the tenancy relates, is likely to engage in anti-social behaviour on those social housing premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to those premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others).
- (4) In making a request that a tenant enter into an acceptable behaviour agreement, the

Corporation must inform the tenant that if:

- (a) the tenant fails or refuses to enter into an acceptable behaviour agreement as requested, or
- (b) the tenant, after entering into such an agreement, seriously or persistently breaches the terms of the agreement,

the Corporation may give a termination notice for the tenancy agreement entered into by the Corporation and the tenant.

- (5) An acceptable behaviour agreement is of no effect unless the Corporation has complied with subsection (4) in relation to the agreement.
- (6) In this section, a reference to **anti-social behaviour** includes a reference to emission of excessive noise, littering, dumping of cars, vandalism and defacing of property.

### **Division 3 Water usage charges, rent and other payments**

#### **139 Social housing tenants to pay charges for water**

- (1) **Charges payable** A tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement must pay to the landlord any charges, determined in accordance with guidelines approved by the appropriate Minister, in respect of water usage by the tenant.
- (2) **Guidelines for payment of charges** The guidelines may provide for the determination of the charges by reference to any of the following:
  - (a) actual usage or estimated usage,
  - (b) the income of the tenant,
  - (c) the rent payable by the tenant (whether with or without rent rebate).
- (3) The guidelines may include other matters, including a requirement that charges in respect of water usage be paid by the tenant in advance.
- (4) The guidelines are to be made publicly available.
- (5) A copy of the guidelines is to be provided, on request, to any tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement free of charge and to other persons either free of charge or on payment of reasonable copying charges.
- (6) The guidelines may be amended or replaced from time to time.
- (7) (Repealed)

#### **140 Payment of debts by social housing tenants**

A tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement who incurs or has incurred a debt to

the landlord in connection with that agreement or a prior social housing tenancy agreement:

- (a) must enter into arrangements with the landlord, in accordance with any reasonable request of the landlord, for the payment of that debt, and
- (b) must comply with those arrangements (including any such arrangement entered into during the term of a prior social housing tenancy agreement) and with any variations to those arrangements that may be agreed to by the landlord and tenant.

#### **141 Cancellation or reduction of rent rebates**

- (1) A tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement whose rent rebate is cancelled may apply to the Tribunal for an order declaring that the rent payable under the agreement (or a proposed social housing tenancy agreement for premises already occupied by the tenant) is excessive.
- (2) The tenant may do so within the period prescribed by the regulations after the cancellation of the rent rebate takes effect.
- (3) This section is in addition to any other provision of this Act.

**Note—**

For remedies relating to excessive rents, see section 44.

### **Division 4 Fixed term agreements**

#### **142 Extension of social housing tenancies**

- (1) This section applies to a social housing tenancy agreement that is a fixed term agreement under which the landlord is the New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation or the Aboriginal Housing Office.
- (2) The landlord may, if the fixed term has ended, by written notice given to the tenant declare that the agreement is subject to a fixed term of the tenancy specified in the notice from the date specified in the notice.
- (3) At the end of any such further fixed term:
  - (a) any term of the agreement that provides for the continuation of the agreement applies, or
  - (b) section 18 applies.
- (4) A declaration may be made under this section in relation to an agreement on more than one occasion.
- (5) A tenancy that is subject to a further fixed term under this section may be terminated

in accordance with this Act by the tenant (but not by the landlord) as if the social housing tenancy agreement were a periodic agreement.

## **Division 5 Termination of social housing tenancy agreements**

### **Subdivision 1 Eligibility ground**

#### **143 Termination notice may be given on ground that tenant not eligible for social housing**

A landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement may give a termination notice to the tenant on the ground that the landlord has determined, as the result of an assessment carried out under this Subdivision, that the tenant is not eligible to reside in the class of social housing premises to which the agreement applies (the **eligibility ground**).

#### **144 Eligibility assessments of social housing tenants**

- (1) In carrying out an assessment of the eligibility of a tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement to reside in the class of social housing premises concerned, the landlord is to apply the criteria approved by the appropriate Minister for the purposes of this section.
- (2) Any such criteria may differ from the criteria used to assess a person's eligibility to commence residing in that class of social housing premises.
- (3) The criteria used for the purposes of an assessment must not relate to whether or not the tenant has complied with any term of the agreement.
- (4) The landlord may request the tenant to provide any information that is reasonably required to enable the landlord to determine whether the tenant meets the criteria for the purposes of an assessment under this section.
- (5) If the tenant refuses to provide any such information to the landlord, the landlord may determine, without further inquiry, that the tenant is not eligible to reside in the class of social housing premises concerned.
- (6) In the case of a fixed term agreement, an assessment may not be carried out earlier than 6 months before the end of the fixed term.
- (7) The criteria referred to in this section are to be made publicly available.
- (8) A copy of the criteria is to be provided, on request, to any tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement free of charge and to other persons either free of charge or on payment of reasonable copying charges.

#### **145 Review of decision to give notice on ground that tenant not eligible for social housing**

- (1) **Notice to be given before termination notice** Before giving a termination notice to a tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement on the eligibility ground, the

landlord is to advise the tenant of the decision to do so by notice in writing.

(2) **Right to review** A notice given under this section must:

- (a) contain particulars of the reasons why the tenant is no longer considered eligible to reside in the social housing premises, and
- (b) state that the tenant may apply to the landlord for a review of the decision within 30 days after the notice is given and give particulars of how such an application may be made, and
- (c) state that the tenant is entitled to make representations to the landlord in writing, or (if the tenant wishes) orally, as to why the agreement should not be terminated.

(3) The tenant may, in accordance with the notice:

- (a) apply to the landlord for a review of the decision, and
- (b) make representations in writing, or (if the tenant wishes) orally, to the landlord as to why the agreement should not be terminated.

(4) If the tenant applies to the landlord for a review under this section, the landlord is to review the decision, in accordance with any procedures approved by the appropriate Minister for the purposes of this section, and consider any representations made by the tenant.

(5) **Decision of landlord following review** After the review is carried out, the landlord may:

- (a) give a termination notice on the eligibility ground, or
- (b) advise the tenant, by notice in writing, that the landlord has decided not to give the termination notice.

(6) **Procedural fairness taken to have been observed** If the landlord complies with this section, the landlord is taken to have complied with any rules of procedural fairness required to be observed by the landlord before giving a termination notice to the tenant on the eligibility ground.

#### **146 Time periods to be observed in giving termination notice on ground that tenant not eligible for social housing**

(1) A termination notice of a social housing tenancy agreement is not to be given by a landlord to a tenant on the eligibility ground before the later of the following:

- (a) the end of the 30-day period within which the tenant may apply for a review under this Subdivision of the decision to give the termination notice,
- (b) the end of any such review carried out in respect of that decision.

(2) The termination notice must specify a termination date:



- (a) in the case of a fixed term agreement—that is on or after the end of the term of the fixed term and not earlier than 60 days after the day on which the notice is given, or
- (b) in the case of a periodic agreement—that is not earlier than 60 days after the day on which the notice is given.

#### **147 Termination by Tribunal on eligibility ground**

- (1) The Tribunal must, on application by the landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement, terminate the agreement on the eligibility ground if it is satisfied that:
  - (a) any notice required to be given, or any review required to be carried out, was given or carried out in accordance with this Subdivision before giving the termination notice on the eligibility ground, and
  - (b) a termination notice has been given in accordance with this Subdivision, and
  - (c) the landlord has determined, as a result of an assessment under this Subdivision, that the tenant is not eligible to reside in the class of social housing premises to which the agreement applies.
- (2) In deciding whether or not to make an order, the Tribunal is not to review the eligibility of the tenant to reside in the class of social housing premises to which the agreement applies.

### **Subdivision 2 Alternative premises ground**

#### **148 Termination notice may be given on ground that tenant offered alternative social housing premises**

A landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement may give a termination notice to the tenant on the ground that the landlord has offered to enter into a new social housing tenancy agreement with the tenant in respect of alternative premises to the premises the subject of the existing social housing tenancy agreement (the **alternative premises ground**) and the tenant has failed to accept, or has rejected, the offer.

#### **149 Review of decision to give termination notice on ground that tenant offered alternative social housing premises**

- (1) **Notice to be given before termination notice** Before giving a termination notice to the tenant on the alternative premises ground, the landlord is to advise the tenant of the decision to do so by notice in writing.
- (2) The landlord may make the offer to enter into a new social housing tenancy agreement and give notice of the decision at the same time.
- (3) **Right to review** A notice given under this section must:

- (a) contain particulars of the reasons why the landlord wishes the tenant to move to alternative premises, and
  - (b) state that the tenant may apply to the landlord for a review of the decision within 14 days after the notice is given and give particulars of how such an application may be made, and
  - (c) state that the tenant is entitled to make representations to the landlord in writing, or (if the tenant wishes) orally, as to why the existing agreement should not be terminated.
- (4) The tenant may, in accordance with the notice:
- (a) apply to the landlord for a review of the decision, and
  - (b) make representations in writing, or (if the tenant wishes) orally, to the landlord as to why the existing agreement should not be terminated.
- (5) If the tenant applies to the landlord for a review under this section, the landlord is to review the decision, in accordance with any procedures approved by the appropriate Minister for the purposes of this section, and consider any representations made by the tenant.
- (6) **Decision of landlord following review** After the review is carried out, the landlord may:
- (a) give a termination notice on the alternative premises ground, or
  - (b) advise the tenant, by notice in writing, that the landlord has decided not to give the termination notice, or
  - (c) make a new offer to the tenant to enter into a new social housing tenancy agreement in respect of alternative premises that differ from those the subject of the offer in respect of which the review was carried out.
- (7) **Right to second review if new offer made** If a new offer is made under subsection (6) (c), subsections (1)–(6) apply in relation to giving a termination notice in connection with the new offer. Accordingly, the landlord is required to give a second notice, and the tenant is entitled to a second review, under this section. However, the landlord is not required to give any further notice, and the tenant is not entitled to any further review, under this section in relation to giving a termination notice following a second review.
- (8) **Procedural fairness taken to have been observed** If the landlord complies with this section, the landlord is taken to have complied with any rules of procedural fairness required to be observed by the landlord before giving a termination notice on the alternative premises ground.

## **150 Time periods to be observed in giving termination notice on ground that tenant**

**offered alternative social housing premises**

- (1) A termination notice of a social housing tenancy agreement is not to be given to the tenant on the alternative premises ground before the later of the following:
  - (a) the end of the 14-day period within which the tenant may apply for any review of the decision to give the termination notice,
  - (b) the end of any such review carried out in respect of that decision.
- (2) However, if the landlord and tenant enter into a new social housing tenancy agreement before the end of that 14-day period or any such review, the termination notice may be given on or after the day on which they enter into the new agreement.
- (3) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 30 days after the day on which the notice is given, unless it specifies an earlier day to which the tenant has consented.
- (4) The termination notice is ineffective unless the alternative premises in connection with which the termination notice is given are available for occupation no later than 7 days before the termination date.
- (5) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term of the social housing tenancy agreement if it is a fixed term agreement.

**151 Termination by Tribunal on alternative premises ground**

- (1) The Tribunal must, on application by the landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement, terminate the agreement on the alternative premises ground if it is satisfied that:
  - (a) any notice required to be given, or any review required to be carried out, was given or carried out in accordance with this Subdivision before giving the termination notice on the alternative premises ground, and
  - (b) a termination notice has been given in accordance with this Subdivision, and
  - (c) the landlord has offered to enter into a new social housing tenancy agreement with the tenant in respect of alternative premises to the premises the subject of the existing agreement, and
  - (d) alternative premises (which may or may not be the same as the alternative premises in connection with which the notice was given) are available for occupation by the tenant.
- (2) In deciding whether or not to make an order, the Tribunal is not to review the landlord's reasons for making the offer concerned.

**152 (Repealed)**

## **Subdivision 3 Behaviour ground**

### **153 Termination notice—acceptable behaviour agreements**

- (1) The New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation may give a termination notice of a social housing tenancy agreement to the tenant on either of the following grounds:
  - (a) that the tenant has failed or refused to enter into an acceptable behaviour agreement as requested by the Corporation,
  - (b) that the tenant has seriously or persistently breached the terms of an acceptable behaviour agreement.
- (2) The termination notice must specify a termination date that is not earlier than 14 days after the day on which the notice is given.
- (3) The termination notice may specify a termination date that is before the end of the fixed term of the social housing tenancy agreement if it is a fixed term agreement.

### **154 Termination by Tribunal on behaviour ground**

The Tribunal may, on application by the New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation, terminate a social housing tenancy agreement if it is satisfied that a termination notice has been given in accordance with this Subdivision and the tenant:

- (a) has failed or refused to enter into an acceptable behaviour agreement as requested by the Corporation, or
- (b) has entered into such an agreement and has failed to satisfy the Tribunal that the tenant has not seriously or persistently breached the terms of that agreement.

## **Subdivision 4 Breach of agreement**

### **154A Termination notice for non-payment of amount payable on variation or cancellation of rent rebate**

If a tenant owes a landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement a debt arising under section 57 of the *Housing Act 2001* or otherwise as a consequence of the variation or cancellation of a rent rebate, sections 87, 88 and 89 apply as if the amount owed were rent and the failure to pay were a breach of the agreement.

### **154B Tribunal must have regard to breaches of prior social housing tenancy agreements and to series of breaches**

- (1) In determining under section 87 whether to terminate a social housing tenancy agreement on the ground of a breach of the agreement by the tenant, the Tribunal must have regard to:
  - (a) any breaches by the tenant of a prior social housing tenancy agreement with the

same or a different landlord, and

(b) whether a series of breaches by the tenant of the social housing tenancy agreement or any prior social housing tenancy agreement with the same or a different landlord justifies termination of the agreement even though, taken alone, the circumstances of each breach would not justify termination of an agreement.

(2) This section does not limit any other matter that may be considered by the Tribunal under this Act.

#### **154C Scheme for recording strikes against tenant for breaches**

(1) If a landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement is satisfied that a tenant has breached the agreement but is not satisfied that the circumstances of the breach taken alone justify termination of the agreement, the landlord may issue a strike notice to the tenant and record a strike against the tenant.

(2) A strike notice:

(a) must be in writing, and

(b) must inform the tenant that a strike has been recorded against the tenant, and

(c) must set out details of the alleged breach of the agreement for which the strike has been recorded, and

(d) must remind the tenant of any strikes that have been recorded (and not withdrawn) against the tenant within the previous 12 months (including strikes recorded for breach of a prior social housing tenancy agreement with the same or, to the extent that relevant information is known by the landlord, a different landlord), and

(e) must warn the tenant that, if a third strike is recorded against the tenant within 12 months, a termination notice may be given to the tenant, and

(f) must inform the tenant that, if the tenant disagrees with the statement of details of the alleged breach of the agreement for which the strike has been recorded, or any aspect of those details, the tenant should make submissions to the landlord setting out the grounds of the disagreement, and

(g) must specify how the submissions may be made and the date before which they must be made (being a date not less than 21 days after the date of the strike notice), and

(h) must inform the tenant that, if the tenant does not make any such submissions, the details of the alleged breach of the agreement set out in the strike notice will be taken, in proceedings before the Tribunal, to have been conclusively proved and the tenant will not be able to challenge the accuracy of those details.

- (3) A landlord may withdraw a strike against a tenant at any time.
- (4) If, after considering submissions made by a tenant as set out in a strike notice, the landlord decides not to withdraw the strike, the landlord must give the tenant a notice in writing:
  - (a) informing the tenant of that decision and that the tenant may apply for review of the strike notice, and
  - (b) specifying how the application may be made and the date before which it must be made (being a date not less than 21 days after the date of the notice).
- (5) If an application for review of a strike notice is made by a tenant, the landlord must refer the matter to a review panel comprised of one or more persons who were not substantially involved in the process of making the decision under review and who are, in the opinion of the landlord, otherwise suitably qualified to deal with the issues raised by the application.
- (6) On a review, the review panel must consider any information submitted by the tenant and may:
  - (a) confirm the strike against the tenant, or
  - (b) require the strike against the tenant to be withdrawn.
- (7) A landlord is bound by a decision of a review panel requiring a strike against a tenant to be withdrawn.
- (8) A landlord must, on application by a tenant, provide the tenant with information about any strikes recorded (and not withdrawn) against the tenant (unless that information has already been provided to the tenant within the last 3 months and no further strikes have been recorded against the tenant since the information was last provided).
- (9) If 2 strikes have been recorded against the tenant within the previous 12 months and the landlord is satisfied that the tenant has breached the social housing tenancy agreement and that a further strike notice could be issued to the tenant, the landlord may:
  - (a) record a strike against the tenant without issuing a further strike notice, and
  - (b) give a termination notice under section 87 on the basis that the landlord is satisfied that a series of breaches by the tenant of the agreement or any prior social housing tenancy agreement with the same or a different landlord justifies termination of the agreement with the tenant.
- (10) The termination notice:

- (a) must inform the tenant that a strike has been recorded against the tenant and set out details of the alleged breach of the agreement for which the strike has been recorded, and
- (b) must remind the tenant of the details of any other strikes relied on by the landlord for giving the notice.

**154D Tribunal required to make termination order in certain circumstances**

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the Tribunal must make a termination order on the application of a landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement if:
  - (a) an application for the order is made under section 90 and the Tribunal is satisfied of the matters set out in section 90 (1) (b) and the injury constitutes grievous bodily harm within the meaning of the *Crimes Act 1900*, or
  - (b) an application for the order is made under section 91 and the Tribunal is satisfied of the matters set out in section 91 (1) (a), or
  - (c) an application for the order is made under section 91 and the Tribunal is satisfied that the tenant, or any person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the social housing premises, has intentionally or recklessly caused or permitted the social housing premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to the premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others) to be used for the purposes of:
    - (i) storing a firearm for which a licence or permit is not held under the *Firearms Act 1996*, or
    - (ii) a show cause offence within the meaning of the *Bail Act 2013*,and the tenant or other person has been charged with an offence relating to those circumstances (whether or not the person is or has been found guilty of the offence).
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Tribunal must make a termination order on the application of a landlord if:
  - (a) an application for the order is made under section 90 and the Tribunal is satisfied of the matters set out in section 90 (1) (and subsection (1) of this section does not apply), or
  - (b) an application for the order is made under section 91 and the Tribunal is satisfied that the tenant, or any person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the social housing premises, has intentionally or recklessly caused or permitted the social housing premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to the premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others) to be used:

- (i) as a brothel within the meaning of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, or
  - (ii) for the purposes of an offence against section 91H (Production, dissemination or possession of child abuse material) of the *Crimes Act 1900*, or
  - (iii) for the purposes of an offence against section 154G (Facilitating organised car or boat rebirthing activities) of the *Crimes Act 1900*, or
- (c) an application for the order is made under section 91 and the Tribunal is satisfied that the tenant, or any person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the social housing premises, has intentionally or recklessly caused or permitted the social housing premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to the premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others) to be used for any other unlawful purpose and that the use is sufficient to justify the termination.
- (3) However:
- (a) subsection (1) (a) does not apply if the application for the termination order is based on an act of a person who although not a tenant is occupying or jointly occupying the residential premises and not on an act of the tenant, and
  - (b) subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if the Tribunal is satisfied that the termination order would be likely to result in undue hardship being suffered by a child, a person in whose favour an apprehended violence order could be made or a person suffering from a disability within the meaning of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* who is occupying or jointly occupying the social housing premises, and
  - (c) subsection (2) does not apply if the tenant satisfies the Tribunal that there are other exceptional circumstances that justify the order not being made.
- (4) For the purposes of the application of section 91 (1) (b) to social housing premises under this section:
- (a) the reference to residential premises in section 91 (1) (b) is to be taken to be a reference to the social housing premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to the premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others), and
  - (b) if the Tribunal is satisfied that an offence of a kind referred to in subsection (1) (c) or (2) (b) has been committed by a person on the social housing premises or any property adjoining or adjacent to the premises (including any property that is available for use by the tenant in common with others), the Tribunal must assume that:
    - (i) the premises or property has been used for an unlawful purpose, and



(ii) the use is sufficient to justify termination of the agreement.

(5) If the Tribunal does not make a termination order as a consequence of subsection (3), the Tribunal must provide written reasons for the decision.

**154E Exercise of discretion to make termination order**

(1) In considering whether to make a termination order for a social housing tenancy agreement, the Tribunal must have regard to the following:

- (a) the effect the tenancy has had on neighbouring residents or other persons,
- (b) the likelihood that neighbouring residents or other persons will suffer serious adverse effects in the future if the tenancy is not terminated,
- (c) the landlord's responsibility to its other tenants,
- (d) the history of the current tenancy and any prior tenancy arising under a social housing tenancy agreement with the same or a different landlord,
- (e) whether the tenant, wilfully or otherwise, is or has been in breach of an order of the Tribunal.

(2) This section does not limit any other matter that may be considered by the Tribunal under this Act.

**154F Neighbourhood impact statement**

(1) If the Tribunal finds that a tenant under a social housing tenancy agreement has breached the agreement and the Tribunal is considering whether to make a termination order, the Tribunal is to give the landlord an opportunity to submit a neighbourhood impact statement and is to have regard to any such statement that is submitted.

(2) A neighbourhood impact statement:

- (a) is a summary of statements made by neighbouring residents or other persons relevant to the requirement for the Tribunal to have regard to the effect the tenancy has had on them, and
- (b) should not identify the neighbouring residents or other persons.

(3) Every effort must be made in the proceedings to ensure that information tending to identify a neighbouring resident or other person who has made a statement that is summarised in a neighbourhood impact statement is not disclosed in the proceedings without the consent of that person.

**Subdivision 5 Miscellaneous**

### **154G Order for possession**

- (1) If an order is made for termination of a social housing tenancy agreement, the order for possession must not specify a day that the order for possession is to take effect that is later than 28 days after the day on which the termination order is made unless the Tribunal is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances justifying a later day.
- (2) The order for possession cannot be suspended for a period that would result in it taking effect later than 28 days after the day on which the termination order was made unless the Tribunal is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances justifying a longer period of suspension.

### **155 Operation of Division**

This Division is in addition to, and does not limit, any other right conferred on a landlord of a social housing tenancy agreement as a landlord under any other provision of this Act.

## **Division 6 Exemption**

### **156 Head leases involving social housing providers**

- (1) A residential tenancy agreement is exempted from the operation of this Act if:
  - (a) under the agreement, the landlord is a social housing provider (the **head landlord**) who lets the premises to a tenant who is a social housing provider, and
  - (b) the agreement is in writing and the agreement states that this section applies to the agreement.
- (2) If the tenant ceases to be a social housing provider during the currency of the term of the residential tenancy agreement, the exemption under this section does not cease to have effect until 6 months after the date the tenant ceases to be a social housing provider.

## **Division 7 Evidentiary certificates**

### **156A Evidentiary certificate for strike notice**

- (1) In proceedings before the Tribunal, a landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement may submit a certificate certifying as to:
  - (a) the issuing of a strike notice to the tenant, and
  - (b) the details of the alleged breach of the agreement set out in the strike notice, and
  - (c) whether or not the tenant made submissions as allowed for in the strike notice, and
  - (d) whether or not the tenant made an application for review of the strike notice and

the outcome of any such review.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), in proceedings before the Tribunal, a certificate under subsection (1) constitutes proof, in the absence of proof to the contrary, of the matters certified in the certificate.
- (3) If, in proceedings before the Tribunal, the Tribunal is satisfied that the tenant was issued a strike notice and did not make submissions as allowed for in the strike notice, a certificate under subsection (1) constitutes conclusive proof of the matters certified in the certificate under subsection (1) (b).

#### **156B Evidentiary certificate of cost of work**

In proceedings before the Tribunal:

- (a) a landlord under a social housing tenancy agreement may submit a certificate certifying as to the cost of work undertaken by the landlord on or in connection with the social housing premises, and
- (b) the Tribunal must accept the certificate as conclusive proof of the reasonable cost of the work.

## **Part 8 Rental bonds**

### **Division 1 Preliminary**

#### **157 Definitions**

In this Part:

**claim notice** means a notice given under section 164.

**claim notice period** means the period specified in a claim notice within which any proceedings affecting the rental bond must be notified to the Secretary.

**deposit period** means the period within which a rental bond must be deposited with the Secretary.

**landlord** includes a former landlord.

**rental bond** means an amount of money paid or payable by the tenant or another person as security against any failure by a tenant to comply with the terms of a residential tenancy agreement.

**Rental Bond Account** means the Rental Bond Account established under section 185.

**Rental Bond Interest Account** means the Rental Bond Interest Account established under section 186.

**tenant** includes a former tenant.

#### **157A Online rental bond service**

- (1) The Secretary may establish an online rental bond service.
- (2) An **online rental bond service** is an online facility or system that may be used for any of the following purposes:
  - (a) to deposit a rental bond with the Secretary,
  - (b) to make a claim for the payment of a rental bond,
  - (c) to make a payment of an amount of a rental bond,
  - (d) to give any notice authorised or required under this Part,
  - (e) to do or facilitate the doing of any other thing authorised or required under this Part.
- (3) Use of the online rental bond service is subject to any terms and conditions imposed by the Secretary.
- (4) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require a tenant or another person to use the online rental bond service.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (5) A notice or other document that is authorised or required by this Part, or under a provision of a residential tenancy agreement that relates to the requirements of this Part, may be given or served by a user of the online rental bond service to or on any other user of the online rental bond service by delivering it electronically to an address nominated by the user as an address for service of the notice or other document.
- (6) In this section:

**user** of the online rental bond service means:

  - (a) the Secretary, or
  - (b) any tenant, landlord or landlord's agent, or person acting on behalf of a tenant or landlord, who has agreed to use the online rental bond service.

#### **158 Mortgagee in possession may exercise functions**

A mortgagee who becomes entitled to possession of residential premises may exercise any functions of a landlord under this Part in respect of the release of a rental bond.

## **Division 2 Payment and deposit of rental bonds**

### **159 Payment of bonds**

- (1) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require or receive from a tenant or another person a rental bond of an amount exceeding 4 weeks rent under the residential tenancy agreement for which the bond was paid (as in force when the agreement was entered into).
- (1A) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require or receive from a tenant a rental bond unless:
  - (a) the landlord or landlord's agent is registered as a user of the online rental bond service established under section 157A, and
  - (b) the tenant has been invited by the landlord or the landlord's agent to provide an address that can be used to invite the tenant (using the online service) to use the online service to deposit the rental bond with the Secretary, and
  - (c) if the tenant has provided such an address:
    - (i) the landlord or landlord's agent has invited the tenant (using the online service) to use the online service to deposit the rental bond with the Secretary, and
    - (ii) the tenant has been given a reasonable opportunity to use the online service to deposit the rental bond with the Secretary or has declined the invitation.
- (2) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require from a tenant or another person an amount of rental bond before the tenant signs the residential tenancy agreement.
- (2A) Subsection (2) does not prevent a landlord, landlord's agent or other person from requiring a tenant or other person who has agreed to deposit a rental bond for a residential tenancy agreement with the Secretary to provide evidence that the rental bond has been so deposited before the residential tenancy agreement is entered into.
- (3) A person who receives payment of a rental bond must provide the tenant, or person paying the bond, with a receipt for the bond but is not required to do so if details of the payment are recorded in the residential tenancy agreement.
- (4) A person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

### **160 Other security may not be required**

- (1) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require or receive from a tenant or another person anything other than a rental bond as security for any failure

by a tenant to comply with the terms of a residential tenancy agreement.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

(2) This section does not apply to an undertaking:

- (a) given to a landlord by the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services (or the New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation on behalf of that Secretary), or a person authorised in writing for the purposes of this section by that Secretary, and
- (b) that provides that, subject to specified conditions, the landlord will be indemnified up to a specified amount against loss or damage arising from any breach of a residential tenancy agreement by a specified tenant.

### **161 One rental bond for each agreement**

- (1) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require or receive more than one rental bond for a residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) A landlord, landlord's agent or any other person must not require or receive from a tenant or another person a rental bond or additional amounts of rental bond if:
  - (a) a rental bond was paid (and not claimed) for residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) one or more of the tenants under that agreement continue to occupy the residential premises under one or more successive residential tenancy agreements.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

### **162 Deposit of rental bonds**

- (1) A landlord, landlord's agent or other person who receives an amount of rental bond must deposit that amount with the Secretary within the deposit period together with a notice in the approved form.
- (2) A rental bond may, if the landlord and tenant agree, be paid by instalments commencing on the signing of the residential tenancy agreement.
- (3) The deposit periods for a rental bond (other than a bond paid by instalments) are as follows:
  - (a) for a bond paid to a landlord or person other than a landlord's agent—10 working days after the bond is paid or such other period as may be prescribed by the regulations,
  - (b) for a bond paid to a landlord's agent—10 working days after the end of the month

in which the bond is paid or such other period as may be prescribed by the regulations.

- (4) The deposit periods for a rental bond paid by instalments are as follows:
  - (a) if the total amount of the bond is paid within 3 months of the first instalment being paid—10 working days after the total bond is paid,
  - (b) if the total amount is not paid within 3 months of the first instalment being paid, for any instalments paid within that period—3 months after the first instalment is paid or 10 working days after each instalment is paid (whichever occurs later),
  - (c) if one or more instalments are paid after 3 months of the first instalment being paid—every 3 months until the bond is fully paid.
- (5) A person who contravenes this section is guilty of an offence.  
Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.
- (6) This section does not apply if:
  - (a) the rental bond is refunded or becomes refundable, or
  - (b) the rental bond becomes the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal or a court in relation to a residential tenancy agreement.

## **Division 3 Release of rental bonds**

### **163 Claims for rental bonds**

- (1) A claim may be made to the Secretary for the payment of a rental bond by:
  - (a) the tenant or an agent of the tenant, or
  - (b) the landlord or an agent of the landlord, or
  - (c) jointly by the landlord and the tenant or agents for them.
- (2) A claim is to be made in the approved form.
- (3) A claim must not be made before the termination of a residential tenancy agreement unless:
  - (a) it is made jointly by or on behalf of the landlord and all the tenants, or
  - (b) it is made by or on behalf of the landlord and directs that the rental bond be paid to all the tenants, or
  - (c) it is made by or on behalf of all the tenants and directs that the rental bond be paid to the landlord.

#### **164 Claim notice to be given to other party**

- (1) This section applies if a claim for the whole or part of a rental bond is made by a landlord or a tenant without the consent of all the other parties to a residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) The Secretary must give written notice of the claim to all of the other parties to the residential tenancy agreement as known to the Secretary.
- (3) A notice under this section may be addressed to one or more parties to the residential tenancy agreement.
- (4) The notice must also be given to the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services if the whole or part of the rental bond was paid by or on behalf of that Department.
- (5) The notice must state that the Secretary will pay the claim unless notified in writing by a party within 14 days that the claim is the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal or a court.

#### **165 Notice to tenants of claims against tenants**

- (1) A landlord, landlord's agent or a person on behalf of a landlord who makes a claim for payment of a rental bond without the consent of the tenant must give the tenant:
  - (a) a copy of a completed condition report about the residential premises at the end of the residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) copies of any estimates, quotes, invoices or receipts for work for which the rental bond is claimed.
- (2) The documents must be provided within 7 days of the claim being made.
- (3) The documents must also be provided to the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services if the whole or part of the rental bond was paid by or on behalf of that Department.
- (4) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes this section is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

#### **166 Matters that may be subject of rental bond claim**

- (1) A landlord is entitled to claim from the rental bond for the residential tenancy agreement any of the following:
  - (a) the reasonable cost of repairs to, or the restoration of, the residential premises or goods leased with the premises, as a result of damage (other than fair wear and



tear) caused by the tenant, an occupant or an invitee of the tenant,

- (b) any rent or other charges owing and payable under the residential tenancy agreement or this Act,
- (c) the reasonable cost of cleaning any part of the premises not left reasonably clean by the tenant, having regard to the condition of the premises at the commencement of the tenancy,
- (d) the reasonable cost of replacing locks or other security devices altered, removed or added by the tenant without the consent of the landlord,
- (e) any other amounts prescribed by the regulations.

(2) This section does not limit the matters for which the landlord may claim from the rental bond for a residential tenancy agreement.

### **167 Payment where no dispute**

The Secretary must pay the amount of a claim for rental bond if:

- (a) the claim is made jointly by or on behalf of the landlord and tenant, or
- (b) the claim is made by or on behalf of the landlord and directs the payment of an amount to the tenant, or
- (c) the claim is made by or on behalf of a tenant and directs the payment of an amount to the landlord, or
- (d) the claim is made by or on behalf of the landlord or the tenant for payment to the party by or on whose behalf the claim is made and the Tribunal or another party to the agreement fails to notify the Secretary of a dispute within the claim notice period.

### **168 Disputed rental bond claims**

- (1) This section applies if the Secretary is notified in writing within the claim notice period or before payment of a claim for a rental bond that a claim for the payment of an amount of rental bond is the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal or a court.
- (2) The Secretary may pay the claim only in the following circumstances:
  - (a) if the party who disputes the claim gives the Secretary written notice of the party's consent to payment of the claim,
  - (b) in accordance with an order of the Tribunal or court,
  - (c) if any applicable order of the Tribunal or court has been satisfied,
  - (d) if the proceedings are withdrawn.

- (3) If any applicable order of the Tribunal or a court has been wholly or partly satisfied before a claim for an amount of rental bond is paid, any amount of rental bond no longer required to satisfy the order must be paid to the party who would, but for the claim, be entitled to the amount.
- (4) The Secretary must not pay an amount of a claim until proceedings affecting the claim are finally determined if, before any amount is paid, the Secretary is given written notice of an appeal against a relevant decision of the Tribunal or a court.
- (5) A payment by the Secretary of an amount under this section in accordance with an order of the Tribunal or a court is for all purposes taken to be a payment by the person subject to the order.

#### **169 Appeals may be made despite payment**

A person may appeal against a decision of the Tribunal or a court affecting the payment of an amount of rental bond even though the Secretary has paid an amount of rental bond under this Division.

#### **170 Payment to other persons**

The Secretary may, if directed to do so by a person to whom a rental bond is payable, pay the whole or part of an amount of the rental bond to another person.

#### **171 Payment to Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services**

Any amount of rental bond payable to a tenant under this Division is payable instead to the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services, to the extent that the amount of the bond was paid on behalf of the tenant by that Secretary or the New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation.

#### **172 Secretary not required to pay excess amount**

The Secretary is not required to pay an amount of rental bond under this Division to the extent that the amount claimed exceeds the amount of rental bond held by the Secretary for the particular residential tenancy agreement.

#### **173 Payment of interest by Secretary on rental bond amounts**

- (1) The Secretary must pay interest on an amount of rental bond paid if the regulations provide for the payment of interest.
- (2) The regulations may prescribe the rate and manner of payment of any such interest.
- (3) No other interest is payable on an amount of rental bond.

#### **174 Repayment of bond to former co-tenant**

- (1) This section applies if the tenancy of a co-tenant is terminated and the residential

tenancy agreement continues in force in relation to one or more other co-tenants.

- (2) The remaining co-tenant or co-tenants must, within 14 days of a request by a former co-tenant, pay to the former co-tenant an amount equal to the rental bond (if any) paid by the former co-tenant for the residential tenancy agreement.
- (3) The remaining co-tenant or co-tenants may deduct from that amount any amount owed to them by the former co-tenant for rent or other reasonable costs associated with the residential premises.
- (4) If a final apprehended violence order is in force prohibiting a former co-tenant from having access to the residential premises, the remaining tenant or tenants are not required to pay the amount referred to in subsection (2) within the period required by that subsection.
- (5) A former co-tenant who is paid an amount in accordance with this section is not entitled to payment of any other amount of rental bond for the residential tenancy agreement.
- (6) This section does not apply if the liabilities of the former co-tenant under the residential tenancy agreement exceed the amount of rental bond paid by the former co-tenant.

#### **175 Powers of Tribunal**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or tenant or any other person (including a former co-tenant) who has an interest in the payment of a rental bond, make an order as to the payment of the amount of the rental bond.
- (2) The Tribunal may make an order whether or not the amount of a rental bond has been paid by the Secretary.
- (3) An application for an order must be made within the period prescribed by the regulations.

#### **176 Proof of deposit of bond**

A certificate purporting to be a certificate given by the Secretary stating that no rental bond has been deposited with, or that no rental bond was or is held on deposit by, the Secretary in relation to a tenancy of specified residential premises during a specified period is admissible in any proceedings and is evidence of the matters stated, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

### **Division 4 Rental Bond Board**

#### **177 Constitution of Rental Bond Board**

- (1) There is constituted by this Act a corporation with the name Rental Bond Board.

- (2) The Board is subject to the direction and control of the Minister in the exercise of its functions.
- (3) The Board has the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under this or any other Act.
- (4) The Board is, for the purposes of any Act, a NSW Government agency.
- (5) Persons may be employed in the Public Service under the [Government Sector Employment Act 2013](#) to enable the Board to exercise its functions.

**Note—**

Section 59 of the [Government Sector Employment Act 2013](#) provides that the persons so employed (or whose services the Board makes use of) may be referred to as officers or employees, or members of staff, of the Board. Section 47A of the [Constitution Act 1902](#) precludes the Board from employing staff.

### **178 Members of Rental Bond Board**

- (1) The Board is to consist of the following 5 members:
  - (a) the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation,
  - (b) the Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services,
  - (c) the Secretary of the Treasury,
  - (d) 2 members appointed by the Minister who have, in the opinion of the Minister, experience in real estate or tenancy matters.
- (2) The Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation is to be the Chairperson of the Board.
- (3) Schedule 1 contains provisions about the membership and procedures of the Board.

### **179 Delegation**

- (1) The Board may delegate to an authorised person any of its functions, other than this power of delegation.
- (2) A delegate may sub-delegate to an authorised person any function delegated by the Board if the delegate is authorised to do so by the Board.
- (3) In this section:

**authorised person** means:

- (a) a person employed in the Department, or
- (b) a person, or a person of a class, prescribed by the regulations.

## **Division 5 Functions of Board relating to residential accommodation**

### **180 Joint ventures for residential accommodation**

- (1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister and the concurrence of the Treasurer, enter into a joint venture (including a partnership and any other association) with other persons or bodies, whether or not incorporated.
- (2) The joint venture is to be for the purpose of the development (including the acquisition, management, leasing and disposal) of land for or in connection with the provision of residential accommodation.

### **181 Joint venture powers**

- (1) The Board may, for the purposes of such a joint venture, with the approval of the Minister:
  - (a) form, or participate in the formation of, a private corporation, and
  - (b) purchase, hold, dispose of or deal with shares in, or subscribe to the issue of shares by, any private corporation, and
  - (c) make advances of money or provide other financial accommodation to any person or body (whether or not incorporated) participating in the joint venture or acting for or on behalf of the joint venture, and
  - (d) do any other things that are necessary or convenient for, or incidental to, the joint venture.
- (2) A corporation in which the Board has a controlling interest because of its shareholding in the capital of the company is not and does not represent the Crown.

### **182 Investment in residential accommodation unit trusts**

- (1) The Board may invest money in units in a residential accommodation unit trust and may, with the approval of the Minister, underwrite the issue of units in such a trust.
- (2) A **residential accommodation unit trust** is a unit trust providing for participation by unit holders in income and profits arising from the development of property that wholly or partly comprises residential accommodation.
- (3) Development of property includes the acquisition, holding, management, leasing and disposal of property.

### **183 Guarantees etc by Board**

- (1) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister:
  - (a) guarantee the due performance of an obligation incurred by a person or body in

connection with a scheme for the provision of residential accommodation, and

- (b) make good a loss incurred by a person or body in connection with a scheme for the provision of residential accommodation, and
- (c) indemnify a person or body against a liability incurred under a guarantee (provided by the person or body) of the kind which the Board could provide under this section, and
- (d) enter into and give effect to an agreement to do anything which the Board is authorised to do under this section.

(2) The following are examples of schemes for the provision of residential accommodation:

- (a) a joint venture that the Board enters into under this Division,
- (b) a residential accommodation unit trust in which the Board is empowered to invest under this Division.

(3) A permissible method of making good a loss involving such a residential accommodation unit trust is investment in units in the trust.

#### **184 Finance**

- (1) Amounts may be paid from the Rental Bond Interest Account to meet expenditure by the Board under this Division.
- (2) Amounts may also be paid from the Rental Bond Account to meet so much of that expenditure as is attributable to the provision of financial accommodation (including advances).
- (3) Interest and other income accruing to the Board in connection with any investment made, financial accommodation provided or joint venture entered into under this Division must be paid into the Rental Bond Interest Account.

### **Division 6 Financial matters**

#### **185 Rental Bond Account**

- (1) There is to be established a Rental Bond Account into which is to be paid:
  - (a) all rental bonds paid to the Secretary, and
  - (b) any other money payable to the Account under this or any other Act.
- (2) There is to be paid from the Rental Bond Account:
  - (a) the amount of any rental bonds payable under this Act, and

- (b) money for the purpose of investment of the Account, and
- (c) any other money that is payable from the Account under this or any other Act.

### **186 Rental Bond Interest Account**

- (1) There is to be established a Rental Bond Interest Account into which is to be paid:
  - (a) all income from any investment of the Rental Bond Account, and
  - (b) the income from any investment of the Rental Bond Interest Account, and
  - (c) any other money payable to the Rental Bond Interest Account under this or any other Act.
- (2) There is to be paid from the Rental Bond Interest Account:
  - (a) money for the purpose of investment of the Rental Bond Interest Account, and
  - (b) the costs of, or expenses incurred in, administering this Act, and
  - (c) half the costs of, or expenses incurred in, administering residential and social housing matters in the Consumer and Commercial Division of the Tribunal, and
  - (d) grants or loans for the purposes set out in subsection (3), and
  - (e) any other money that is payable from the Rental Bond Interest Account or the Rental Bond Account under this or any other Act.

**Note—**

Amounts may be paid out of the Rental Bond Interest Account for the purposes of expenditure under Division 5 of this Part (related to the provision of residential accommodation).

- (3) The Secretary may make a grant or loan, on the recommendation of the Board and with the approval of the Minister, from the Rental Bond Interest Account for the following purposes:
  - (a) establishing and administering tenancy advisory services,
  - (b) schemes for the provision of residential accommodation,
  - (c) education about tenancy laws and the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants,
  - (d) research into matters relevant to the relationship of landlord and tenant,
  - (e) other activities for the benefit of landlords and tenants.

- (4) In this section:

***residential and social housing matters in the Consumer and Commercial***

**Division of the Tribunal** means matters relating to the exercise of the functions of the Tribunal in that Division under the *Residential Parks Act 1998*, *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* or *Retirement Villages Act 1999*.

## **Part 9 Powers of Tribunal**

### **Division 1 General powers of Tribunal**

#### **187 Orders that may be made by Tribunal**

- (1) The Tribunal may, on application by a landlord or tenant or other person under this Act, or in any proceedings under this Act, make one or more of the following orders:
  - (a) an order that restrains any action in breach of a residential tenancy agreement,
  - (b) an order that requires an action in performance of a residential tenancy agreement,
  - (c) an order for the payment of an amount of money,
  - (d) an order as to compensation,
  - (e) an order that a party to a residential tenancy agreement perform such work or take such other steps as the order specifies to remedy a breach of the agreement,
  - (f) an order that requires payment of part or all of the rent payable under a residential tenancy agreement to the Tribunal until the whole or part of the agreement has been performed or any application for compensation has been determined,
  - (g) an order that requires rent paid to the Tribunal to be paid towards the cost of remedying a breach of the residential tenancy agreement or towards the amount of any compensation,
  - (h) an order directing a landlord, landlord's agent or tenant to comply with a requirement of this Act or the regulations,
  - (i) a termination order or an order for the possession of premises,
  - (j) an order directing a landlord or landlord's agent to give a former tenant or person authorised by a former tenant access to residential premises for the purpose of recovering goods of the former tenant or fixtures that the former tenant is entitled to remove.
- (2) Without limiting the Tribunal's power to make an order as to compensation, the Tribunal may order compensation to be paid for the following:
  - (a) loss of rent,
  - (b) any other breach of a residential tenancy agreement,



(c) loss or damage suffered by a person as a result of inaccurate, ambiguous or out-of-date information being listed about the person on a residential tenancy database.

(3) An order under subsection (1) (a) or (b) may be made even though it provides a remedy in the nature of an injunction or order for specific performance in circumstances in which such a remedy would not otherwise be available.

(4) The Tribunal must not make an order for:

(a) the payment of an amount that exceeds the amount (if any) prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section, or

(b) the performance of work or the taking of steps the cost of which is likely to or will exceed the amount (if any) prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.

**Note—**

This Act also confers other order-making powers on the Tribunal, including other specific powers to make termination orders, to declare that premises have been abandoned, to make orders about holding fees and to make various orders about rental bonds.

**188 General order-making power of Tribunal**

The Tribunal may, in any proceedings before it under this Act, make any one or more of the following orders:

(a) an order that the Tribunal may make under this Act,

(b) an order that varies or sets aside, or stays or suspends the operation of, any order made in proceedings or earlier proceedings,

(c) any ancillary order the Tribunal thinks appropriate,

(d) an interim order.

**189 Application of provisions relating to Tribunal**

(1) A provision of this Act that enables a landlord or tenant to apply for an order by the Tribunal and the Tribunal to make an order also applies, where appropriate, to a former landlord or a former tenant.

(2) (Repealed)

**Division 2 Powers of Tribunal relating to breaches of residential**

## tenancy agreements

### 190 Applications relating to breaches of residential tenancy agreements

- (1) A landlord or a tenant may apply to the Tribunal for an order in relation to a breach of a residential tenancy agreement within the period prescribed by the regulations after the landlord or tenant becomes aware of the breach or within such other period as may be prescribed by the regulations.
- (2) An application may be made:
  - (a) during or after the end of a residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) whether or not a termination notice has been given or a termination order made.
- (3) A landlord's agent may make an application on behalf of a landlord.

### 191 Matters for consideration by Tribunal in applications relating to security breaches

- (1) This section applies to proceedings before the Tribunal relating to a breach of Division 7 of Part 3.
- (2) For the purposes of determining whether a landlord has provided residential premises that are reasonably secure, the Tribunal may consider (but is not limited to considering) the following matters:
  - (a) the physical characteristics of the premises and adjoining areas,
  - (b) the requirements of insurance companies for allowing the tenant to obtain insurance for property of the tenant kept at the premises,
  - (c) the likelihood of break-ins or unlawful entry or risks to the tenant's personal safety.
- (3) For the purposes of determining whether compensation is payable to a tenant for a breach of the obligation to provide residential premises that are reasonably secure, the Tribunal must consider (but is not limited to considering) the actions taken, or that should reasonably have been taken, by the tenant and the landlord for the security of the premises.

## Division 3 Powers of Secretary in proceedings

### 192 Secretary may represent persons

In any proceedings before the Tribunal under this Act, a person may, despite the *Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013* or any other law, be represented by the Secretary or by a legal practitioner or agent for the Secretary.

### **193 Secretary may take or defend proceedings**

- (1) If a person, not being a corporation, has made a complaint to the Secretary and the Secretary:
  - (a) after investigating the complaint, is satisfied that the person may have a right to take or defend proceedings before the Tribunal, and
  - (b) is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that the Secretary should take or defend those proceedings on behalf of the person,the Secretary may, with the consent of the person, take or defend those proceedings on behalf of and in the name of the person.
- (2) If the Minister so directs and the person consents, the Secretary must take or defend proceedings before the Tribunal on behalf of a person.
- (3) This section applies despite anything to the contrary in the *Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013* or any other law.

### **194 Conduct of proceedings by Secretary**

- (1) If the Secretary takes or defends proceedings before the Tribunal on behalf of a person:
  - (a) the Secretary is to have the conduct of those proceedings on behalf of the person, may appear personally or by a legal practitioner or agent and may do all things that are necessary or expedient to give effect to an order or a decision of the Tribunal, and
  - (b) the Secretary is liable to pay the costs (if any) of the person, and
  - (c) the person is liable to pay any other amount that the Tribunal orders the person to pay.
- (2) This section applies despite anything to the contrary in the *Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013* or any other law.

### **195 Intervention by Secretary**

- (1) Without limiting any other provision of this Division or section 44 of the *Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013*, the Secretary may, if of the opinion that it would be in the public interest to do so, or, at the direction of the Minister must, intervene, and has a right to be heard personally or by legal practitioner or agent, in any proceedings arising under this Act or the regulations before the Tribunal.
- (2) The Secretary, on intervening in any proceedings, becomes a party to the proceedings and has all the rights of such a party.

## **Part 10 Enforcement**

### **Division 1 Powers of investigators**

#### **196 Powers of entry and other powers**

- (1) An investigator may exercise the powers conferred by this section for the purposes of:
  - (a) investigating whether the provisions of this Act or the regulations are being complied with, or
  - (b) obtaining evidence, documents or information in relation to a matter that constitutes or may constitute a contravention of this Act or the regulations.
- (2) An investigator may enter any premises at any reasonable time and may inspect and do any one or more of the following:
  - (a) require any person on those premises to produce any documents in the possession or under the control of the person in written form and inspect those documents,
  - (b) take copies of or extracts from, or make notes from, any such documents and, for that purpose, take temporary possession of any such documents,
  - (c) take such photographs, films and audio, video and other recordings as the investigator considers necessary,
  - (d) require any person on those premises to answer questions or otherwise furnish information in relation to a contravention of this Act or the regulations,
  - (e) require the owner or occupier of those premises to provide the investigator with such assistance and facilities as are reasonably necessary to enable the investigator to exercise the functions of an investigator under this Division.
- (3) An investigator is not entitled to enter a part of premises used for residential purposes except:
  - (a) with the consent of the occupier, or
  - (b) under the authority of a search warrant.
- (4) An investigator may not exercise in any premises a function conferred by this Division unless the investigator produces a certificate of identification to the person apparently in charge of those premises or apparently in charge of any work being performed on those premises.

#### **197 Power of investigator to obtain information, documents and evidence**

If an investigator believes on reasonable grounds that a person is capable of giving

information, producing documents, or giving evidence in relation to a matter that constitutes, or may constitute, an offence under this Act or the regulations, the investigator may, by written notice given to the person, require the person:

- (a) to provide an investigator, by writing signed by the person (or, in the case of a corporation, by a competent officer of the corporation) and given to the investigator within the time and in the manner specified in the notice, with any such information, or
- (b) to produce to an investigator, in accordance with the notice, any such documents, or
- (c) to appear before an investigator at a time and place specified in the notice and give any such evidence, either orally or in writing, and produce any such documents.

### **198 Obstruction of investigator**

- (1) A person must not:
  - (a) without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with any notice given or requirement made, or to answer any question asked, by an investigator under this Division, or
  - (b) provide information or give evidence in purported compliance with a requirement made or question asked by an investigator under this Division knowing the information or evidence to be false or misleading in a material particular, or
  - (c) wilfully delay, hinder or obstruct an investigator in the exercise of the investigator's functions under this Division.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) Despite any other provision of this Division, a natural person is excused from answering any question, providing any information, giving evidence or producing or permitting the inspection of a document in accordance with this Division on the ground that the answer, information, evidence or document may tend to incriminate the person.

### **199 Taking possession of documents to be used as evidence**

- (1) If an investigator takes possession of any documents under this Division for the purpose of obtaining evidence or protecting evidence from destruction, they may be retained by the investigator until the completion of proceedings (including proceedings on appeal) in which they may be evidence.
- (2) The person from whom the documents are taken must be provided, within a reasonable time after the documents are taken, with a copy of the documents certified by an investigator as a true copy.

## 200 Search warrants

- (1) An investigator may apply to an issuing officer for the issue of a search warrant for premises if the investigator believes on reasonable grounds:
  - (a) that a provision of this Act or the regulations is being or has been contravened on the premises, or
  - (b) that there is on the premises evidence of a contravention of this Act or the regulations.
- (2) An issuing officer to whom an application for a search warrant is made under this section may, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so, issue a search warrant authorising an investigator named in the warrant, when accompanied by a police officer, and any other person named in the warrant:
  - (a) to enter the premises concerned, and
  - (b) to search the premises for evidence of a contravention of this Act or the regulations.
- (3) Division 4 of Part 5 of the [Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act 2002](#) applies to a search warrant issued under this section.
- (4) In this section:

**issuing officer** means an authorised officer within the meaning of the [Law Enforcement \(Powers and Responsibilities\) Act 2002](#).

## 201 Application of [Fair Trading Act 1987](#)

The powers conferred on an investigator by this Division are in addition to any powers conferred on an investigator under the [Fair Trading Act 1987](#).

## Division 2 Offences

### 202 Nature of proceedings for offences

- (1) Proceedings for an offence under this Act or the regulations may be dealt with summarily before the Local Court.
- (2) Proceedings for an offence under section 120 (1) may also, with the consent of the Minister, be dealt with by the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction.
- (3) The maximum monetary penalty that may be imposed by the Local Court in proceedings for an offence against this Act is 50 penalty units or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations.
- (4) Proceedings for an offence against this Act may be brought:

- (a) in the case of an offence in relation to a rental bond for a residential tenancy agreement or a proposed residential tenancy agreement—within the period of 3 years that next succeeds:
  - (i) the commission of the offence, or
  - (ii) the termination of the residential tenancy agreement,whichever is the later, or
- (b) in any other case—within the period of 3 years that next succeeds the commission of the offence, or
- (c) with the consent of the Attorney General—at any time.

### 203 Penalty notices

- (1) An authorised officer may issue a penalty notice to a person if it appears to the officer that the person has committed a penalty notice offence.
- (2) A penalty notice offence is an offence against this Act or the regulations that is prescribed by the regulations as a penalty notice offence.
- (3) The *Fines Act 1996* applies to a penalty notice issued under this section.

**Note—**

The *Fines Act 1996* provides that, if a person issued with a penalty notice does not wish to have the matter determined by a court, the person may pay the amount specified in the notice and is not liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence.

- (4) The amount payable under a penalty notice issued under this section is the amount prescribed for the alleged offence by the regulations (not exceeding the maximum amount of penalty that could be imposed for the offence by a court).
- (5) This section does not limit the operation of any other provision of, or made under, this or any other Act relating to proceedings that may be taken in respect of offences.
- (6) In this section, **authorised officer** means a person authorised in writing by the Secretary as an authorised officer for the purposes of this section.

### 204 Offences by corporations

- (1) If a corporation contravenes, whether by act or omission, any provision of this Act or the regulations, each person who is a director of the corporation or who is concerned in the management of the corporation is taken to have contravened the same provision if the person knowingly authorised or permitted the contravention.
- (2) A person may be proceeded against and convicted under a provision pursuant to subsection (1) whether or not the corporation has been proceeded against or has been convicted under the provision.

- (3) Nothing in this section affects any liability imposed on a corporation for an offence committed by the corporation under this Act or the regulations.

### **205 Aiding and abetting etc**

A person who:

- (a) aids, abets, counsels or procures, or
- (b) induces, or attempts to induce, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, or
- (c) is in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to,

the commission of an offence against this Act or the regulations is taken to have committed that offence and is punishable accordingly.

## **Division 3 Mandatory appointment of agents for landlords**

### **206 Appointment of landlord's agents**

- (1) The Secretary may, by written notice given to a landlord:
  - (a) direct the landlord to appoint, at the landlord's expense, a landlord's agent to manage a tenancy under a residential tenancy agreement between the landlord and a specified person, and
  - (b) direct that the landlord's affairs in relation to the tenancy be conducted through the agent.
- (2) A notice may specify the period within which an appointment is to be made, the minimum period for which the appointment is to be made and persons who must not be appointed by the landlord.
- (3) A landlord's agent who is appointed by a landlord who has been given a direction must give written notice to the Secretary:
  - (a) of the appointment, and
  - (b) if the person ceases to be the landlord's agent.
- (4) The Secretary must not give a direction under this section unless the Secretary is satisfied that the landlord has engaged in persistent or serious breaches of this Act, the regulations or residential tenancy agreements (whether or not in relation to the residential premises affected by the direction).
- (5) The Secretary must not give a direction under this section if the landlord has appointed a landlord's agent.
- (6) The Secretary may, by further written notice given to the landlord, revoke or vary a direction given under this section.



(7) A landlord must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a direction under this section.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

### **207 Administrative review by Tribunal**

A landlord may apply to the Tribunal for an administrative review under the [Administrative Decisions Review Act 1997](#) of a decision of the Secretary to give a direction under this Division.

## **Division 4 Costs in certain court proceedings**

### **208 Costs in court proceedings**

If a court in any proceedings is of the opinion that, having regard to the subject-matter of the proceedings, the taking of the proceedings was not warranted in the circumstances of the case because this Act makes adequate provision for the enforcement by the Tribunal of the rights concerned, the court, unless it is of the opinion that it would be unjust to do so, must order the plaintiff to pay the defendant's costs in such amount as the court determines.

## **Part 11 Residential tenancy databases**

### **Division 1 Preliminary**

#### **209 Definitions**

In this Part:

**agent** of a landlord means a person acting on behalf of a landlord and includes a landlord's agent.

**database** means a system, device or other thing used for storing information, whether electronically or in some other form.

**database operator** means an entity that operates a residential tenancy database.

**list** personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database means:

- (a) enter the personal information into the database, or
- (b) give the personal information to a database operator or someone else for entry into the database,

and includes amend personal information about the person in the database to include additional personal information about the person.

**out-of-date**, in relation to personal information in a residential tenancy database, means

the information is no longer accurate because:

- (a) for a listing made on the basis the person owes a landlord an amount that is more than the rental bond for a residential tenancy agreement—the amount owed was paid to the landlord within 3 months after the amount became due, or
- (b) for a listing made on the basis the Tribunal has made a termination order—the order has been suspended, the warrant for possession has lapsed or the parties have entered into a new residential tenancy agreement.

**personal information** means:

- (a) an individual's name, or
- (b) information or an opinion, whether true or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can be reasonably ascertained, from the information or opinion.

**residential tenancy database** means a database:

- (a) containing personal information:
  - (i) relating to, or arising from, the occupation of residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement, or
  - (ii) entered into the database for reasons relating to, or arising from, the occupation of residential premises under a residential tenancy agreement, and
- (b) the purpose of which is for use by landlords or agents of landlords for checking a person's tenancy history to decide whether a residential tenancy agreement should be entered into with the person.

## **210 Application of Part**

This Part does not apply to a residential tenancy database kept by an entity (including a government department or a department of a government of another State or Territory) for use only by that entity or its staff.

## **Division 2 Tenancy database information**

### **211 Notice of database and listing**

- (1) This section applies if:
  - (a) a person (the **applicant**) applies to a landlord, whether or not through an agent of the landlord, to enter into a residential tenancy agreement, and
  - (b) the landlord or, if the application is made through an agent, the agent uses a residential tenancy database in deciding whether a residential tenancy agreement should be entered into with the person.

- (2) If personal information about the applicant is in the database, the landlord or agent must, as soon as possible but within 7 days after using the database, give the applicant a written notice stating:
- (a) that personal information about the applicant is in the database, and
  - (b) particulars of the landlord or agent who listed the personal information in the database and information about the right to seek a copy of the information from that person, and
  - (c) how the applicant may contact the database operator that operates the residential tenancy database and obtain information from the operator, and
  - (d) how and in what circumstances the applicant can have the information removed or amended under this Part.

### **212 Listing can be made only for particular breaches by particular persons**

A landlord or agent of a landlord must not list personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database unless:

- (a) the person was named as a tenant in a residential tenancy agreement that has terminated or the person's co-tenancy was terminated, and
- (b) the person breached the agreement, and
- (c) because of the breach, the person owes the landlord an amount that is more than the rental bond for the agreement or the Tribunal has made a termination order, and
- (d) the personal information identifies the nature of the breach and is accurate, complete and unambiguous.

### **213 Further restriction on listing**

- (1) A landlord or agent of a landlord must not list personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database unless:
- (a) the landlord or agent has given the person a copy of the personal information or taken other reasonable steps to disclose the personal information to the person, and
  - (b) the landlord or agent has given the person not less than 14 days to review the personal information and make submissions objecting to its entry into the database or about its accuracy, completeness and clarity, and
  - (c) the landlord or agent has considered any submissions made.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) This section does not apply if the landlord or agent cannot locate the person after making reasonable inquiries.
- (3) A database operator must not list personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database except at the request of a landlord or landlord's agent in accordance with this Part.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

#### **214 Ensuring quality of listing—landlord's and agent's obligation**

- (1) This section applies if a landlord or agent of a landlord who lists personal information in a residential tenancy database becomes aware that the information is inaccurate, incomplete, ambiguous or out-of-date.
- (2) The landlord or agent must, within 7 days, give written notice of the following to the database operator that keeps the database:
  - (a) that the information is inaccurate, incomplete, ambiguous or out-of-date,
  - (b) if the information is inaccurate, incomplete or ambiguous—how the information must be amended to make it accurate, complete and unambiguous,
  - (c) if the information is out-of-date—that the information is out-of-date and must be removed.
- (3) The landlord or agent is taken to have complied with subsection (2) if the landlord or agent corrects the database within 7 days.

#### **215 Ensuring quality of listing—database operator's obligation**

- (1) This section applies if a landlord or agent of a landlord who has listed personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database gives the database operator that operates the database written notice that the personal information must be:
  - (a) amended in a stated way to make it accurate, complete and unambiguous, or
  - (b) removed.
- (2) The database operator must amend the personal information in the stated way, or remove the personal information, within 14 days of the notice being given.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

#### **216 Provision of copies of listed personal information**

- (1) A landlord or agent of a landlord who lists personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database must, if asked in writing by the person, give the person a copy of the information, without payment of a fee, within 14 days after the request is

made.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) A database operator must, if asked in writing by a person whose personal information is in the residential tenancy database kept by the operator, give the person a copy of the information within 14 days after the request is made.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (3) If a database operator charges a fee for giving personal information under subsection (2):
- (a) the fee must not be excessive, and
  - (b) subsection (2) applies only if the fee has been paid.
- (4) This section does not require a landlord or agent of a landlord to give a person personal information if the landlord or agent has previously given the information to the person under this section.

## 217 Disputes about listings

- (1) **Application** A person may apply to the Tribunal for an order under this section if personal information about the person has been, or is proposed to be, listed in a residential tenancy database.
- (2) **Grounds for order** The Tribunal may make an order under this section if it is satisfied that:
- (a) the residential tenancy database includes personal information about the applicant that is inaccurate, incomplete, ambiguous or out-of-date or that has been listed on the database for longer than the applicable period specified in section 218 (1), or
  - (b) the inclusion of the applicant's name or other personal information about the applicant is unjust in the circumstances, having regard to the following:
    - (i) the reason for the listing,
    - (ii) the tenant's involvement in any acts or omissions giving rise to the listing,
    - (iii) any adverse consequences suffered, or likely to be suffered, by the tenant because of the listing,
    - (iv) any other relevant matter.
- (3) **Orders by Tribunal** The Tribunal may order personal information about a person in a residential tenancy database to be wholly or partly removed, amended in a stated way or not listed in a residential tenancy database. The Tribunal must give a copy of the

order to the landlord, tenant and database operator.

- (4) **Orders affecting other persons** If the Tribunal makes an order directing a person other than a landlord or agent to remove, amend or not list information in a residential tenancy database, the Tribunal must give a copy of the order to the person.

## **218 Limit on period of listing**

- (1) A database operator must not keep personal information in the operator's residential tenancy database for longer than:
- (a) if the Australian Privacy Principles require the operator to remove the personal information within a stated period of less than 3 years—the stated period, or
  - (b) in any other case—3 years.
- (2) However, this section does not apply to a person's name if it is necessary to keep the name in the residential tenancy database for the purposes of other personal information about the person in the database that is not required to be removed under this section or another law.
- (3) This section does not limit the operation of this Act or any other law that requires the removal of the personal information.
- (4) In this section:

**Australian Privacy Principles** has the same meaning as in the [Privacy Act 1988](#) of the Commonwealth.

## **Part 12 Miscellaneous**

### **219 Contracting out prohibited**

- (1) A term of any residential tenancy agreement, contract or other agreement is void to the extent that it purports to exclude, limit or modify the operation of this Act or the regulations or has the effect of excluding, limiting or modifying the operation of this Act or the regulations.
- (2) A person must not enter into any contract or other agreement, with the intention, either directly or indirectly, of defeating, evading or preventing the operation of this Act or the regulations.
- (3) A landlord's agent must not enter into any contract or other agreement with the intention, either directly or indirectly, of obtaining exclusion from or indemnity for personal liability for any act on behalf of the landlord that renders the landlord's agent liable for an offence under this Act.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

## **220 Contracts Review Act 1980**

Nothing in this Act limits the operation of the *Contracts Review Act 1980*.

## **221 Tenants' agents**

- (1) A tenant may appoint a person as the tenant's agent for the purpose of receiving notices or documents given under the residential tenancy agreement or this Act or the regulations.
- (2) The tenant may appoint the agent in the residential tenancy agreement or at any time during the tenancy by written notice given to the landlord or the landlord's agent.
- (3) An appointment may be revoked at any time by written notice given to the landlord or the landlord's agent.
- (4) A landlord, landlord's agent or the Tribunal (if aware of the appointment) must give to the tenant's agent any notices or other documents required to be given to the tenant under the residential tenancy agreement or this Act or the regulations.
- (5) Any such notice or document is taken to have been given to the tenant if it is given to the tenant's agent.

## **222 Functions of Secretary**

- (1) The Secretary has the following functions:
  - (a) to investigate and carry out research into matters relating to or affecting tenancies of residential premises or landlords or tenants,
  - (b) to investigate suspected contraventions of this Act or the regulations,
  - (c) to prosecute any offence under this Act or the regulations,
  - (d) to take other appropriate action to enforce this Act or the regulations,
  - (e) to investigate and report on any matters, or make inquiries into any matters, referred to the Secretary by the Minister or the Tribunal in connection with this Act or the regulations,
  - (f) to distribute information (in English or any other language) to the public about this Act, tenancies, residential tenancy agreements and services provided under this Act by the Tribunal and other persons,
  - (f1) to assist tenants and landlords and persons acting on their behalf to resolve complaints or disputes as the Secretary considers appropriate,
  - (g) any other function conferred or imposed by or under this Act on the Secretary.
- (2) The Secretary may delegate to a person any of the Secretary's functions under this

Act, other than this power of delegation.

### **223 Service of notices and other documents**

(1) A notice or other document that is authorised or required by this Act or the regulations or a residential tenancy agreement to be given to or served on any person may be given or served by:

(a) in the case of a natural person:

- (i) delivering it to the person personally, or
- (ii) delivering it personally to a person apparently of or above the age of 16 years at the person's residential or business address, or
- (iii) delivering it in an envelope addressed to the person and leaving it in a mailbox at the person's residential or business address, or
- (iv) sending it by post to the address specified by the person for the giving or service of documents or, if no such address is specified, the residential or business address of the person last known to the person giving or serving the document, or
- (v) sending it to an email address specified by the person for the service of documents of that kind, or
- (vi) any other method authorised by the regulations for the service of documents of that kind, or

(b) in the case of a corporation:

- (i) leaving it with a person apparently of or above the age of 16 years at, or by sending it by post to, the head office, a registered office or a principal office of the corporation or to an address specified by the corporation for the giving or service of documents, or
- (ii) sending it to an email address specified by the corporation for the service of documents of that kind, or
- (iii) any other method authorised by the regulations for the service of documents of that kind, or

(c) in the case of a Public Service agency:

- (i) leaving it at, or sending it by post to, any office of the agency addressed to the agency head, or
- (ii) sending it to an email address specified by the agency for the service of documents of that kind, or



(iii) any other method authorised by the regulations for the service of documents of that kind.

- (2) Nothing in this section affects the operation of any provision of a law or of the rules of a court authorising a document to be served on a person in any other manner.
- (3) If there is more than one landlord or tenant under a residential tenancy agreement, a notice required to be served on a tenant or landlord under the agreement is taken to be served on all the tenants or landlords under the agreement if it is served on one of the tenants or landlords.

## **224 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) In particular, regulations may be made for or with respect to the following matters:
- (a) a standard form or forms of residential tenancy agreement,
  - (b) a standard form or forms of condition report,
  - (c) forms for notices under this Act,
  - (d) the periods for which records under this Act or the regulations must be kept,
  - (e) the times within which applications must be made to the Tribunal under this Act or the regulations.
- (3) A regulation may create an offence punishable by a penalty not exceeding 10 penalty units.

## **225 Exclusion of personal liability**

A matter or thing done or omitted to be done by the Secretary, an investigator, a member of the Board or any person acting under the direction of the Secretary or a member of the Board does not, if the matter or thing was done or omitted in good faith for the purpose of executing this Act or the regulations, subject the Secretary, investigator, member of the Board or person so acting personally to any action, liability, claim or demand.

## **226 Savings and transitional provisions**

Schedule 2 contains savings and transitional provisions.

## **227 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.

#### **228 Review of sections 154D and 154G**

- (1) The Minister is to review sections 154D and 154G to determine whether the policy objectives of the sections remain valid and whether the terms of the sections remain appropriate for securing those objectives.
- (2) The review is to be undertaken as soon as possible after the period of 2 years from the commencement of this section.
- (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 2 years.

### **Schedule 1 Membership and procedure of Rental Bond Board**

(Section 178 (3))

#### **Part 1 General**

##### **1 Definitions**

In this Schedule:

**appointed member** means a member appointed by the Minister under section 178 (1) (d).

**Chairperson** means the Chairperson of the Board.

**member** means any member of the Board.

#### **Part 2 Constitution**

##### **2 Terms of office of members**

Subject to this Schedule and the regulations, an appointed member holds office for such period (not exceeding 3 years) as is specified in the member's instrument of appointment, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment.

##### **3 Remuneration**

An appointed member is entitled to be paid such remuneration (including travelling and subsistence allowances) as the Minister may from time to time determine in respect of the member.

#### **4 Deputies**

- (1) A member may, from time to time, appoint a person to be the deputy of the member, and may revoke any such appointment.
- (2) In the absence of a member, the member's deputy may, if available, act in the place of the member.
- (3) While acting in the place of a member, a deputy has all the functions of the member and is taken to be a member.
- (4) For the purposes of this clause, a vacancy in the office of a member is taken to be an absence of the member.
- (5) This clause does not operate to confer on the deputy of a member who is the Chairperson the member's functions as Chairperson.

#### **5 Vacancy in office of member**

- (1) The office of an appointed member becomes vacant if the member:
  - (a) dies, or
  - (b) completes a term of office and is not re-appointed, or
  - (c) resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Minister, or
  - (d) is removed from office by the Minister under this clause, or
  - (e) is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the Board of which reasonable notice has been given to the member personally or by post, except on leave granted by the Minister or unless the member is excused by the Minister for having been absent from those meetings, or
  - (f) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit, or
  - (g) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
  - (h) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted elsewhere than in New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable.
- (2) The Minister may remove an appointed member from office at any time.

#### **6 Filling of vacancy in office of appointed member**

If the office of any appointed member becomes vacant, a person is, subject to this Act and the regulations, to be appointed to fill the vacancy.

## **7 Disclosure of pecuniary interests**

(1) If:

- (a) a member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered at a meeting of the Board, and
- (b) the interest appears to raise a conflict with the proper performance of the member's duties in relation to the consideration of the matter,

the member must, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of the interest at a meeting of the Board.

(2) A disclosure by a member at a meeting of the Board that the member:

- (a) is a member, or is in the employment, of a specified company or other body, or
- (b) is a partner, or is in the employment, of a specified person, or
- (c) has some other specified interest relating to a specified company or other body or to a specified person,

is a sufficient disclosure of the nature of the interest in any matter relating to that company or other body or to that person which may arise after the date of the disclosure and which is required to be disclosed under subclause (1).

(3) Particulars of any disclosure made under this clause must be recorded by the Board in a book kept for the purpose and that book must be open at all reasonable hours to inspection by any person on payment of the fee determined by the Board.

(4) After a member has disclosed the nature of an interest in any matter, the member must not, unless the Minister or the Board otherwise determines:

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the Board with respect to the matter, or
- (b) take part in any decision of the Board with respect to the matter.

(5) For the purposes of the making of a determination by the Board under subclause (4), a member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter to which the disclosure relates must not:

- (a) be present during any deliberation of the Board for the purpose of making the determination, or
- (b) take part in the making by the Board of the determination.

(6) A contravention of this clause does not invalidate any decision of the Board.

(7) This clause applies to a member of a committee of the Board and the committee in the same way as it applies to a member of the Board and the Board.

## **8 Effect of certain other Acts**

- (1) The provisions of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* relating to the employment of Public Service employees do not apply to an appointed member.
- (2) If by or under any Act provision is made:
  - (a) requiring a person who is the holder of a specified office to devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of that office, or
  - (b) prohibiting the person from engaging in employment outside the duties of that office,

the provision does not operate to disqualify the person from holding that office and also the office of an appointed member or from accepting and retaining any remuneration payable to the person under this Act as a member.

## **Part 3 Procedure**

### **9 General procedure**

The procedure for the calling of meetings of the Board and for the conduct of business at those meetings is, subject to this Act and the regulations, to be as determined by the Board.

### **10 Quorum**

The quorum for a meeting of the Board is a majority of its members for the time being.

### **11 Presiding member**

- (1) The Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, a person elected by the members of the Board who are present at a meeting of the Board) is to preside at a meeting of the Board.
- (2) The presiding member has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, has a second or casting vote.

### **12 Voting**

A decision supported by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present is the decision of the Board.

### **13 Transaction of business outside meetings or by telephone etc**

- (1) The Board may, if it thinks fit, transact any of its business by the circulation of papers among all the members of the Board for the time being, and a resolution in writing approved in writing by a majority of those members is taken to be a decision of the Board.

- (2) The Board may, if it thinks fit, transact any of its business at a meeting at which members (or some members) participate by telephone, closed-circuit television or other means, but only if any member who speaks on a matter before the meeting can be heard by the other members.
- (3) For the purposes of:
  - (a) the approval of a resolution under subclause (1), or
  - (b) a meeting held in accordance with subclause (2),the Chairperson and each member have the same voting rights as they have at an ordinary meeting of the Board.
- (4) A resolution approved under subclause (1) is, subject to the regulations, to be recorded in the minutes of the meetings of the Board.
- (5) Papers may be circulated among the members for the purposes of subclause (1) by facsimile or other transmission of the information in the papers concerned.

## **Schedule 2 Savings, transitional and other provisions**

(Section 226)

### **Part 1 General**

#### **1 Regulations**

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

this Act
- (2) Any such provision may, if the regulations so provide, take effect from the date of assent to the Act concerned or a later date.
- (3) To the extent to which any such provision takes effect from a date that is earlier than the date of its publication on the NSW legislation website, 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 Definitions**

In this Part:

**existing residential tenancy agreement** means a residential tenancy agreement in force immediately before the repeal of the former Act.

**former Act** means the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*.

**former Board** means the Rental Bond Board constituted under the 1977 Act.

**1977 Act** means the *Landlord and Tenant (Rental Bonds) Act 1977*.

### **3 Application of Act to existing residential tenancy agreements**

- (1) The terms included in a residential tenancy agreement by this Act are included in any existing residential tenancy agreement on the repeal of the former Act.
- (2) This Act applies to any such agreement despite the terms of the agreement.
- (3) This clause is subject to this Schedule and the regulations.

### **4 Previous actions etc not affected**

Nothing in this Act affects:

- (a) the validity of any action done or payment made before the repeal of the former Act in pursuance of a term of an existing residential tenancy agreement that contravenes, is ineffective or is void because of this Act, or
- (b) any right or remedy which a landlord or a tenant under an existing residential tenancy agreement would have had but for this Act in relation to such an action or payment or any breach of the agreement that occurred before the repeal of the former Act and the 1977 Act.

### **5 Application to previous applications to Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal**

The former Act continues to apply in relation to any application made to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal under the former Act and not finally determined before the commencement of this clause.

### **6 Termination of residential tenancy agreements**

The former Act continues to apply in relation to any termination notice given before the repeal of the former Act or other action, or proceedings commenced before that repeal, relating to the termination of an existing residential tenancy agreement or goods left on residential premises by a tenant or former tenant or occupant or former occupant.

## **7 Possession of residential premises**

The former Act continues to apply in relation to the enforcement of a termination of a residential tenancy agreement that occurred before the repeal of the former Act and in relation to the recovery of possession of residential premises consequential on any such termination.

## **8 Application of provisions relating to termination of social housing tenancy agreements on eligibility ground**

Notice of termination of a social housing tenancy agreement on a ground referred to in section 147 may not be given to a person who has been a tenant of social housing premises (including more than one such premises or class of premises) for a continuous period starting before 1 July 2005.

## **9 New Board same legal entity as former Board**

The former Board is for all purposes (including the rules of private international law) a continuation of, and the same legal entity as, the Rental Bond Board constituted under this Act.

## **10 Appointed members to continue in office**

(1) In this clause:

***existing appointed member*** means a member of the former Board appointed under section 6 (1) (d) of the 1977 Act, and holding office as such a member, immediately before the repeal of that Act.

(2) Subject to clause 5 of Schedule 1, an existing appointed member continues in office as a member of the Board after the repeal of the 1977 Act for the remainder of the person's appointment (as specified in the member's instrument of appointment to the Board when last appointed under the 1977 Act).

(3) Any such member, if eligible for re-appointment, may be re-appointed.

## **11 Existing delegations**

A delegation, in force immediately before the repeal of the 1977 Act by the former Board of a function under the 1977 Act for which there is a corresponding equivalent function under this Act, continues in force as if it were a delegation under this Act of the corresponding equivalent function.

## **12 Bonds deposited under 1977 Act**

(1) This clause applies to an amount of rental bond deposited under the 1977 Act and not paid out before the commencement of Part 8.

(2) The amount is taken to have been deposited under this Act and is to be dealt with



accordingly.

- (3) Without limiting subclause (2), any claim for payment of any such amount made and not finally dealt with before the commencement of Part 8 of this Act is taken to have been made under this Act.

### **13 Existing Accounts**

- (1) The Rental Bond Account established under section 185 is a continuation of, and the same fund as, the Rental Bond Account established under the 1977 Act.
- (2) The Rental Bond Interest Account established under section 186 is a continuation of, and the same fund as, the Rental Bond Interest Account established under the 1977 Act.

### **14 Existing tenancy databases**

- (1) Part 11 of this Act does not apply to existing entries in a residential tenancy database maintained and used immediately before the commencement of this clause until 3 months after that commencement.
- (2) This clause is subject to the regulations.

### **15 Payment of water charges**

Section 39 (1) (b) does not apply in respect of an existing residential tenancy agreement until 12 months after the commencement of that provision.

## **Part 3 Provision consequent on enactment of [Statute Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act \(No 2\) 2012](#)**

### **16 Nature of proceedings for offences**

The amendment made to section 202 (4) by the [Statute Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act \(No 2\) 2012](#) does not apply to an offence committed before the commencement of the amendment.

## **Part 4 Provision consequent on enactment of [Civil and Administrative Legislation \(Repeal and Amendment\) Act 2013](#)**

### **17 References to former CTTT in existing residential tenancy agreements**

Any reference to the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal in a residential tenancy agreement entered into before the commencement of the amendments made to this Act by the [Civil and Administrative Legislation \(Repeal and Amendment\) Act 2013](#) is to be read, on and after that commencement, as a reference to the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

## **Part 5 Provision consequent on enactment of [Statute Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014](#)**

### **18 Application of amendment**

The amendment made to section 100 by the [Statute Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014](#) extends to residential tenancy agreements entered into before the commencement of the amendment but does not affect the validity of any termination notice given before the commencement of the amendment.

### **Schedule 3 (Repealed)**