



Australian Capital Territory

Trespass on Territory Land Act 1932

A1932-20

Republication No 9

Effective: 1 January 2024

Republication date: 1 January 2024

Last amendment made by [A2023-52](#)

About this republication

The republished law

This is a republication of the *Trespass on Territory Land Act 1932* (including any amendment made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 (Editorial changes)) as in force on 1 January 2024. It also includes any commencement, amendment, repeal or expiry affecting this republished law to 1 January 2024.

The legislation history and amendment history of the republished law are set out in endnotes 3 and 4.

Kinds of republications

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office prepares 2 kinds of republications of ACT laws (see the ACT legislation register at www.legislation.act.gov.au):

- authorised republications to which the *Legislation Act 2001* applies
- unauthorised republications.

The status of this republication appears on the bottom of each page.

Editorial changes

The *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 authorises the Parliamentary Counsel to make editorial amendments and other changes of a formal nature when preparing a law for republication. Editorial changes do not change the effect of the law, but have effect as if they had been made by an Act commencing on the republication date (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 115 and s 117). The changes are made if the Parliamentary Counsel considers they are desirable to bring the law into line, or more closely into line, with current legislative drafting practice.

This republication includes amendments made under part 11.3 (see endnote 1).

Uncommenced provisions and amendments

If a provision of the republished law has not commenced, the symbol **U** appears immediately before the provision heading. Any uncommenced amendments that affect this republished law are accessible on the ACT legislation register (www.legislation.act.gov.au). For more information, see the home page for this law on the register.

Modifications

If a provision of the republished law is affected by a current modification, the symbol **M** appears immediately before the provision heading. The text of the modifying provision appears in the endnotes. For the legal status of modifications, see the *Legislation Act 2001*, section 95.

Penalties

At the republication date, the value of a penalty unit for an offence against this law is \$160 for an individual and \$810 for a corporation (see *Legislation Act 2001*, s 133).



Australian Capital Territory

Trespass on Territory Land Act 1932

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Australian Capital Territory

Trespass on Territory Land Act 1932

An Act relating to trespass on Territory land

1 Name of Act

This Act is the *Trespass on Territory Land Act 1932*.

2 Dictionary

The dictionary at the end of this Act is part of this Act.

Note 1 The dictionary at the end of this Act defines certain terms used in this Act, and includes references (*signpost definitions*) to other terms defined elsewhere.

For example, the signpost definition ‘*vehicle*—see the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Act 1999*, dictionary.’ means that the term ‘vehicle’ is defined in that dictionary and the definition applies to this Act.

Note 2 A definition in the dictionary (including a signpost definition) applies to the entire Act unless the definition, or another provision of the Act, provides otherwise or the contrary intention otherwise appears (see [Legislation Act](#), s 155 and s 156 (1)).

3 Notes

A note included in this Act is explanatory and is not part of this Act.

Note See the [Legislation Act](#), s 127 (1), (4) and (5) for the legal status of notes.

3A Inspectors

- (1) The director-general may appoint a public servant as an inspector.

Note 1 For the making of appointments (including acting appointments), see the [Legislation Act](#), pt 19.3.

Note 2 In particular, an appointment may be made by naming a person or nominating the occupant of a position (see [Legislation Act](#), s 207).

- (2) A police officer is also an inspector.

4 Trespass on Territory land

- (1) The Minister may cause to be placed on unleased Territory land or land occupied by the Territory a notice prohibiting trespass on the land.

- (2) A person who, without reasonable excuse, trespasses or enters—
- (a) unleased Territory land or land occupied by the Territory—
 - (i) about which any notice is posted on it prohibiting trespass;
or
 - (ii) that is in the city area and is delineated on any of the subdivisional plans held by the Territory, and has on it a dwelling house; or
 - (b) any garden, plantation or afforestation area on unleased Territory land or land occupied by the Territory;
- commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

4A Animals straying etc on Commonwealth land

- (1) The owner of any animal that is found straying, wandering, or at large on any road or on any unleased land belonging to the Commonwealth commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

- (2) For this section the owner of an animal includes—
- (a) any person who has the care, custody or control of the animal;
and
 - (b) any person on whose premises the animal is kept or agisted.

4B Grazing stock on Commonwealth land in city area

Any person who turns loose, or suffers any animal belonging to him or her or under his or her charge to be tethered or depastured, on any road or unleased land belonging to the Commonwealth in the city area commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

5 Damage to fences

Any person who without lawful excuse (proof of which shall lie on him or her) damages any fence commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 10 penalty units.

6 Leaving gates open

A person who, without reasonable excuse, leaves open any gate—

- (a) on which the words ‘Shut gate—By order Minister’ or words to the like effect appear; or
- (b) that is adjacent to any unleased land belonging to the Commonwealth or any road, thereby permitting or causing any animal to trespass on the land or road;

commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

7 Damaging trees etc

- (1) A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, damage or destroy trees, plant, garden, plantation or afforestation area on unleased Territory land or land occupied by the Territory.

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (2) In this section:

protected tree—see the [Urban Forest Act 2023](#), section 9.

tree does not include a protected tree.

8 Persons authorised to prevent trespassing etc

An inspector other than a police officer or any person authorised in writing by the Minister may, if need be by force and with the assistance that he or she considers necessary—

- (a) prevent any person, animal or vehicle from trespassing or going on any land, garden, plantation or afforestation area referred to in section 4 (2) without lawful excuse; and
- (b) prevent any person from damaging or destroying any tree, plant, garden, plantation or afforestation area referred to in section 7; and
- (c) remove any person found so trespassing or going on any such land.

8C Evidence

- (1) A public servant authorised in writing by the Minister may, by instrument, certify that land described in the instrument or by reference to a plan on, or annexed to, the instrument—
 - (a) is unleased Territory land or land occupied by the Territory; and
 - (b) is within the city area.
- (2) In proceedings for an offence against this Act, a document that purports to be an instrument referred to in subsection (1) shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken to be such an instrument and is evidence of the matters stated in the instrument.

9 Persons reasonably suspected to give name and address

- (1) An inspector, or any forest overseer employed by the Territory or any person authorised in writing by the Minister, may require any person reasonably suspected of having committed, or of being about to commit an offence against this Act to give his or her name in full and place of abode.
- (2) Any person who, after being so required and on production of the necessary authority, fails to give his or her real name or place of abode, commits an offence.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

Dictionary

(see s 2)

Note 1 The [Legislation Act](#) contains definitions and other provisions relevant to this Act.

Note 2 For example, the [Legislation Act](#), dict, pt 1, defines the following terms:

- chief police officer
- Commonwealth
- land
- Minister (see s 162)
- police officer
- territory land.

animal means any horse, mare, gelding, colt, filly, foal, ass, mule, bull, cow, ox, heifer, steer, calf, ram, ewe, wether, sheep, lamb, goat or pig.

city area—see the [City Area Leases Act 1936](#) as in force on 1 April 1992.

inspector means an inspector under section 3A.

road means road within the meaning of the [Road Transport \(Safety and Traffic Management\) Act 1999](#), section 42 (Regulations about parking).

road related area means a road related area within the meaning of the [Road Transport \(Safety and Traffic Management\) Act 1999](#), section 42.

vehicle—see [Road Transport \(Vehicle Registration\) Act 1999](#), dictionary.

Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

Endnotes

1 About the endnotes

Amending and modifying laws are annotated in the legislation history and the amendment history. Current modifications are not included in the republished law but are set out in the endnotes.

Not all editorial amendments made under the *Legislation Act 2001*, part 11.3 are annotated in the amendment history. Full details of any amendments can be obtained from the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

Uncommenced amending laws are not included in the republished law. The details of these laws are underlined in the legislation history. Uncommenced expiries are underlined in the legislation history and amendment history.

If all the provisions of the law have been renumbered, a table of renumbered provisions gives details of previous and current numbering.

The endnotes also include a table of earlier republications.

2 Abbreviation key

A = Act	NI = Notifiable instrument
AF = Approved form	o = order
am = amended	om = omitted/repealed
amdt = amendment	ord = ordinance
AR = Assembly resolution	orig = original
ch = chapter	par = paragraph/subparagraph
CN = Commencement notice	pres = present
def = definition	prev = previous
DI = Disallowable instrument	(prev...) = previously
dict = dictionary	pt = part
disallowed = disallowed by the Legislative Assembly	r = rule/subrule
div = division	reloc = relocated
exp = expires/expired	renum = renumbered
Gaz = gazette	R[X] = Republication No
hdg = heading	RI = reissue
IA = Interpretation Act 1967	s = section/subsection
ins = inserted/added	sch = schedule
LA = Legislation Act 2001	sdiv = subdivision
LR = legislation register	SL = Subordinate law
LRA = Legislation (Republication) Act 1996	sub = substituted
mod = modified/modification	<u>underlining</u> = whole or part not commenced or to be expired

3 Legislation history

This Act was originally a Commonwealth ordinance—the *Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1932* No 20 (Cwlth).

The *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth), s 34 (4) converted most former Commonwealth ordinances in force in the ACT into ACT enactments. This allowed the ACT Legislative Assembly to amend and repeal the laws. This Act was converted into an ACT enactment on 11 May 1989 (self-government day).

The Ordinance was renamed *Trespass on Territory Land Ordinance 1932* by the *Self-Government (Consequential Amendments) Ordinance 1989 No 38* (see sch 1).

As with most ordinances in force in the ACT, the name was changed from *Ordinance* to *Act* by the *Self-Government (Citation of Laws) Act 1989* A1989-21, s 5 on 11 May 1989 (self-government day).

Before 11 May 1989, ordinances commenced on their notification day unless otherwise stated (see *Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910* (Cwlth), s 12).

After 11 May 1989 and before 10 November 1999, Acts commenced on their notification day unless otherwise stated (see *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth) s 25).

Legislation before becoming Territory enactment

Trespass on Territory Land Act 1932 Ord 1932–20

notified 10 November 1932

commenced 10 November 1932

as amended by

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1937 Ord 1937–10

notified 22 July 1937

commenced 22 July 1937

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1939 Ord 1939–6

notified 10 August 1939

commenced 10 August 1939

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1940 Ord 1940–15

notified 11 July 1940

commenced 11 July 1940

Endnotes

3 Legislation history

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1942 Ord 1942–20

notified 10 December 1942
commenced 10 December 1942

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1943 Ord1943–6

notified 13 May 1943
commenced 27 May 1943

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1944 Ord 1944–2

notified 3 February 1944
commenced 3 February 1944

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance (No 2) 1944

Ord 1944-5

notified 23 March 1944
commenced 3 February 1944 (s 2)

Ordinances Revision (Decimal Currency) Ordinance 1966 Ord1966-19

notified 23 December 1966
commenced 23 December 1966

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1972 Ord 1972–20

notified 20 July 1972
commenced 20 July 1972

Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1973 Ord 1973–8

notified 16 March 1973
commenced 16 March 1973
disallowed by Senate 7 June 1973

Magistrates Court Ordinance 1985 Ord1985-67 sch pt 1

notified 19 December 1985
commenced 1 February 1986 (s 2 and Cwlth Gaz 1986 No G3)

Self-Government (Consequential Amendments) Ordinance 1989

Ord1989-38 sch 1

notified 10 May 1989 (Cwlth Gaz 1989 No S160)
s 1, s 2 commenced 10 May 1989 (s 2 (1))
sch 1 commenced 11 May 1989 (s 2 (2) and see Cwlth Gaz 1989 No S164)

Legislation after becoming Territory enactment**Acts Revision (Arrest Without Warrant) Act 1989 A1989-23 s 13**

notified 1 December 1989 (Gaz 1989 No S38)
commenced 1 December 1989

Statute Law Revision Act 1994 A1994-26 sch

notified 31 May 1994 (Gaz 1994 No S93)
commenced 31 May 1994 (s 2)

Statute Law Revision (Penalties) Act 1994 A1994-81 sch

notified 29 November 1994 (Gaz 1994 No S253)
s 1, s 2 commenced 29 November 1994 (s 2 (1))
sch commenced 29 November 1994 (s 2 (2) and Gaz 1994 No S269)

**Statutory Offices (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 A1994-97 sch
pt 1**

notified 15 December 1994 (Gaz 1994 No S280)
s 1, s 2 commenced 15 December 1994 (s 2 (1))
sch pt 1 commenced 15 December 1994 (s 2 (2) and Gaz 1994
No S293)

Statute Law Revision Act 1995 A1995-46 sch

notified 18 December 1995 (Gaz 1995 No S306)
amds commenced 18 December 1995 (s 2)

Statute Law Revision (Penalties) Act 1998 A1998-54 sch

notified 27 November 1998 (Gaz 1998 No S207)
s 1, s 2 commenced 27 November 1998 (s 2 (1))
sch commenced 9 December 1998 (s 2 (2) and Gaz 1998 No 49)

Road Transport Legislation Amendment Act 1999 A1999-79

notified 23 December 1999 (Gaz 1999 No S65)
commenced 1 March 2000 (s 2 and see Gaz 2000 No S5)

Statute Law Amendment Act 2000 A2000-80 sch 3

notified 21 December 2000 (Gaz 2000 No S69)
commenced 21 December 2000 (s 2 (1))

Endnotes

3 Legislation history

Legislation (Consequential Amendments) Act 2001 A2001-44 pt 394

notified 26 July 2001 (Gaz 2001 No 30)
s 1, s 2 commenced 26 July 2001 (IA s 10B)
pt 394 commenced 12 September 2001 (s 2 and see Gaz 2001 No S65)

Statute Law Amendment Act 2007 A2007-3 sch 3 pt 3.107

notified LR 22 March 2007
s 1, s 2 taken to have commenced 1 July 2006 (LA s 75 (2))
sch 3 pt 3.107 commenced 12 April 2007 (s 2 (1))

Administrative (One ACT Public Service Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2011 A2011-22 sch 1 pt 1.157

notified LR 30 June 2011
s 1, s 2 commenced 30 June 2011 (LA s 75 (1))
sch 1 pt 1.157 commenced 1 July 2011 (s 2 (1))

Public Unleased Land Act 2013 A2013-3 sch 2 pt 2.11

notified LR 21 February 2013
s 1, s 2 commenced 21 February 2013 (LA s 75 (1))
sch 2 pt 2.11 commenced 1 July 2013 (s 2 and [CN2013-9](#))

Urban Forest (Consequential Amendments) Act 2023 A2023-52 sch 1 pt 1.10

notified LR 11 December 2023
s 1, s 2 commenced 11 December 2023 (LA s 75 (1))
sch 1 pt 1.10 commenced 1 January 2024 (s 2 and see [Urban Forest Act 2023 A2023-14, s 2](#))

4 Amendment history

Title

title am [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1

Name of Act

s 1 am [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1

Dictionary

s 2 om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4098
ins [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.529

Notes

s 3 sub [Ord1973-8](#) s 2 (disallowed 7 June 1973)
am [A2000-80](#) amdt 3.27
defs reloc to dict [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528
sub [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.529
def **carriageway** ins [A1972-20](#) s 2
om [A1999-79](#) sch 3
def **city area** am [A1940-15](#) s 2
om [A1972-20](#) s 2
def **Commissioner of Police** ins [A1972-20](#) s 2
om [A1994-26](#) sch
def **Motor Traffic Act** ins [A1972-20](#) s 2
am [A1994-26](#) sch
om [A2000-80](#) amdt 3.26
def **off-street parking area** ins [A1972-20](#) s 2
om [A1999-79](#) sch 3
def **Police Act** ins [A1972-20](#) s 2
am [A1994-26](#) sch
om [A1994-97](#) sch
def **public street** ins [A1972-20](#) s 2
om [A1999-79](#) sch 3

Endnotes

4 Amendment history

Inspectors

s 3A ins [Ord1943-6](#)
am [A1994-26](#) sch
sub [A1994-97](#) sch; [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.530
(3)-(5) exp 12 April 2008 (s 3A (5) (LA s 88 declaration
applies))
am [A2011-22](#) amdt 1.445

s 3B ins [Ord1943-6](#)
sub [Ord1944-2](#)
am [Ord1944-5](#); [Ord1966-19](#)
om [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1

s 3C ins [Ord1943-6](#)
am [Ord1944-2](#); [Ord1966-19](#)
om [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1

Trespass on Territory land

s 4 am [Ord1940-15](#); [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1989-38](#) s 51, sch 1;
[A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-81](#) sch; [A1995-46](#) sch

Animals straying etc on Commonwealth lands

s 4A ins [Ord1937-10](#)
am [Ord1939-6](#); [Ord1966-19](#); [A1994-81](#) sch; [A1995-46](#) sch

Grazing stock on Commonwealth land in city area

s 4B ins [Ord1942-20](#)
am [Ord1966-19](#); [A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-81](#) sch; [A1995-46](#) sch

Damage to fences

s 5 am [Ord1966-19](#); [A1994-81](#) sch; [A1995-46](#) sch

Leaving gates open

s 6 am [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1; [A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-81](#)
sch; [A1995-46](#) sch

Damaging trees etc

s 7 am [Ord1940-15](#); [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1;
[A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-81](#) sch; [A2023-52](#) amdt 1.65

Persons authorised to prevent trespassing etc

s 8 am [Ord1940-15](#); [Ord1943-6](#); [A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-97](#) sch

Camping etc on Territory land

s 8A ins [Ord1972-20](#)
om [Ord1973-8](#) s 3
disallowed 7 June 1973
am [Ord1989-38](#) s 52, sch 1; [A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-81](#) sch;
[A1994-97](#) sch; [A1998-54](#); [A1999-79](#) s 5 sch 3; [A2001-44](#)
amdt 1.4099, amdt 1.4100; [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.531
om [A2013-3](#) amdt 2.33

Permits to occupy unleased land

s 8B ins [Ord1972-20](#)
om [Ord1973-8](#) s 3
disallowed 7 June 1973
am [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1; [A1994-26](#) sch
om [A2013-3](#) amdt 2.33

Evidence

s 8C ins [Ord1972-20](#)
om [Ord1973-8](#) s 3
disallowed 7 June 1973
am [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1; [A1994-26](#) sch; [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4101;
[A2013-3](#) amdt 2.34

Persons reasonably suspected to give name and address

s 9 am [Ord1943-6](#); [Ord1966-19](#); [Ord1985-67](#); [Ord1989-38](#) sch 1;
[Ord1989-23](#) s 13; [A1994-26](#) sch; [A1994-81](#) sch;
[A1994-97](#) sch

Schedule

sch om [A2001-44](#) amdt 1.4102

Dictionary

dict ins [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.532
def **animal** reloc from s 3 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528
def **city area** ins [A1994-26](#) sch
reloc from s 3 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528
def **inspector** ins [A1994-97](#) sch
reloc from s 3 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528
def **road** sub [A1999-79](#) sch 3
reloc from s 3 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528
def **road related area** ins [A1999-79](#) sch 3
reloc from s 3 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528
def **vehicle** ins [A1999-79](#) sch 3
reloc from s 3 [A2007-3](#) amdt 3.528

Endnotes

5 Earlier republications

5 Earlier republications

Some earlier republications were not numbered. The number in column 1 refers to the publication order.

Since 12 September 2001 every authorised republication has been published in electronic pdf format on the ACT legislation register. A selection of authorised republications have also been published in printed format. These republications are marked with an asterisk (*) in column 1. Electronic and printed versions of an authorised republication are identical.

Republication No	Amendments to	Republication date
1	A1989-23	31 August 1993
2	A1994-97	28 February 1995
3	A1998-54	31 March 1999
4	A2001-44	28 August 2002
5	A2007-3	12 April 2007
6	A2007-3	13 April 2008
7	A2011-22	1 July 2011
8	A2013-3	1 July 2013

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