

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme) Determination 2023

Disallowable instrument DI2023–165

made under the

Taxation Administration Act 1999, s 139 (Determination of amounts payable under tax laws)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme) Determination 2023*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 1 July 2023.

3 Definitions

In this instrument:

Act means the *Duties Act 1999*.

Crown lease—see the *Land Titles Act 1925*, dictionary.

declared land sublease—see the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, section 312C.

dutiable value—see the Act, section 20.

home means a building (affixed to land in the ACT) or a unit in a units plan that—

- (a) may lawfully be used as a place of residence; and
- (b) is, in the Commissioner’s opinion, a suitable building for use as a place of residence.

Note *Commissioner* means the Commissioner for ACT Revenue.

occupy, in relation to a principal place of residence, does not include occupation—

- (a) of a transient, temporary or passing nature; or
- (b) for a purpose other than as a place of residence.

off the plan agreement means an agreement for the sale of a unit in a units plan before the units plan is registered.

principal place of residence means the home a person primarily occupies on an ongoing and permanent basis as the person's settled or usual home.

registered—for an off the plan agreement, means registered by the registrar-general under the *Land Titles Act 1925* or the *Land Titles (Unit Titles) Act 1970*.

transferee—see the Act, dictionary.

unit—see the *Unit Titles Act 2001*, section 9.

units plan—see the *Unit Titles Act 2001*, dictionary.

vacant land means land in the ACT, which has a Crown lease or a declared land sublease that does not have a home built, in full or in part, on it.

4 Meaning of *eligible property*

In this instrument:

eligible property means—

- (a) a home with a dutiable value of less than \$765 000; or
- (b) vacant land with a dutiable value of less than \$500 000.

5 Meaning of *eligible transaction*

(1) In this instrument:

eligible transaction means a transfer with a transaction date on or after 1 July 2023 that meets the following requirements:

- (a) on the transaction date, at least 1 transferee—
 - (i) received an Australian Centrelink age pension or Department of Veterans' Affairs age pension equivalent; or
 - (ii) received an Australian Centrelink disability support pension and was 50 years of age or older; or
 - (iii) held a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card, and had held it for a continuous period of at least 1 year immediately prior to the transaction date;
- (b) on the transaction date, all transferees and their domestic partners (if any) did not hold a legal or equitable interest in land, other than an interest—
 - (i) in the former property; or
 - (ii) in the eligible property; or
 - (iii) that a person is required to relinquish under—
 - (A) an order of a court; or

- (B) a financial agreement made under section 90B, section 90C, or section 90D of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cwlth) that is binding on the person; or
 - (C) a part VIIIAB financial agreement made under section 90UB, section 90UC, or section 90UD of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cwlth) that is binding on the person; or
 - (D) a domestic relationship agreement or termination agreement under the *Domestic Relationships Act 1994* to which the person is a party; or
- (iv) that a person acquires as an executor or trustee (but not a beneficiary) under a will;
- (c) the former property is sold within 1 year before or after the registration date, except if the Commissioner is satisfied that the transferee is unable to sell the former property in this time because of an unforeseen circumstance;

Example—unforeseen circumstance

A person purchased the eligible property off the plan on 1 October 2022 and sold the former property on 31 December 2022. As an off the plan purchase, completion of the eligible transaction is subject to the construction of a residence on the land. The residence is not constructed until 2022 and the transaction is registered on 1 October 2023.

Even though the sale of the former property was over 1 year before registration of the eligible transaction, the person could not have foreseen the exact completion date or registration date at the time of sale.

- (d) the ownership of the eligible property is in the same name or names as the former property, except if—
 - (i) a person is required to relinquish an interest in the former property under—
 - (A) an order of a court; or
 - (B) a financial agreement made under section 90B, section 90C, or section 90D of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cwlth) that is binding on the person; or
 - (C) a part VIIIAB financial agreement made under section 90UB, section 90UC, or section 90UD of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cwlth) that is binding on the person; or
 - (D) a domestic relationship agreement or termination agreement under the *Domestic Relationships Act 1994* to which the person is a party; or
 - (ii) an exemption is requested from this requirement for a transferee, and the Commissioner is satisfied that it is fair and reasonable to exempt the transferee, taking into account anomalous or unusual circumstances;

Example—anomalous or unusual circumstances

The person is selling the former property that has a deceased partner on the title, while the eligible property will be purchased only in the name of the surviving partner.

- (e) at least 1 transferee will occupy the eligible property, as the transferee's principal place of residence, within 1 year after the residence start date for the duration of the residence period; and
 - (f) no transferee has had an amount of duty payable determined for under—
 - (i) an Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme under section 139 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*; or
 - (ii) a Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme under section 139 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*.
- (2) If it becomes apparent that a transaction is not an eligible transaction, a transferee must give the Commissioner written notice of that fact within 14 days after the first of the following events:
- (a) the end of any period allowed for compliance with a requirement of the transaction; or
 - (b) the date that the transferee first becomes aware that the transaction is not an eligible transaction.

Example—transaction not an eligible transaction

The transaction ceases to be eligible because no transferee can occupy the eligible property as a principal place of residence.

- (3) In this section:

former property, of a person, means land in Australia that the person occupied as the person's principal place of residence—

- (a) immediately before the transaction date; or
- (b) immediately before the land was sold within a 1-year period ending on the transaction date.

Example—former property

A person sold an ACT principal place of residence on 1 October 2021. After it was sold, the person rented another home in the ACT to live in. On 1 July 2022, the person purchased the eligible property.

The home that the person sold on 1 October 2021 is a former property for the purposes of this instrument even though the person was not in residence immediately before purchasing the eligible property.

The purchase of the eligible property is an eligible transaction because the person sold the former property within 1 year before or after purchasing the eligible property.

registration date means the date that the eligible transaction is registered on the land titles register.

transaction date, of an eligible transaction, means the date that liability for duty arises under the Act, section 11.

transfer means—

- (a) a transfer of eligible property; or
- (b) an agreement for the sale or transfer of eligible property (including an off the plan agreement); or
- (c) a grant of eligible property.

6 Meaning of *residence period* and *residence start date*

(1) In this instrument:

residence period means a continuous period of at least 1 year.

residence start date means—

- (a) for a home—the date of completion of the eligible transaction; or
 - (b) for vacant land—the date that a certificate of occupancy has been issued under the *Building Act 2004* for a home on the land that will be a person’s principal place of residence.
- (2) The Commissioner may determine a shorter residence period (including no period), if—
- (a) the shorter period is requested, in writing, for an eligible home buyer not later than 18 months after the residence start date; and
 - (b) the Commissioner is satisfied that the transferee is unable to occupy the eligible property for a continuous period of 1 year because of an unforeseen circumstance.

Example—unforeseen circumstance

A health-related issue.

(3) The Commissioner may determine a later residence start date, if—

- (a) the later date is requested, in writing, for a transferee not later than 18 months after the applicable residence start date under subsection 6 (1); and
- (b) the Commissioner is satisfied that the transferee is unable to begin occupying the eligible property because of an unforeseen circumstance.

Example—unforeseen circumstance

A health-related issue.

7 Determination

For the purposes of section 31 of the Act, I determine that the rate at which an amount of duty payable on an eligible transaction under this instrument is—

- (a) for a home—calculated using the rate of duty specified in column 3 of table 1 applied to the dutiable value of that eligible property listed opposite in column 2; and
- (b) for vacant land—calculated using the rate of duty specified in column 3 of table 2 applied to the dutiable value of that eligible property listed opposite in column 2.

Table 1 Home

column 1 Item	column 2 dutiable value	column 3 rate of duty
1	less than or equal to \$550 000	nil
2	more than \$550 000 but less than \$765 000	\$9.55 for every \$100, or part of \$100, of the dutiable value that is more than \$550 000

Table 2 Vacant land

column 1 Item	column 2 dutiable value	column 3 rate of duty
1	less than or equal to \$423 000	nil
2	more than \$423 000 but less than \$500 000	\$11.60 for every \$100, or part of \$100, of the dutiable value that is more than \$423 000

8 Revocation

This instrument revokes *Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme) Determination 2022*, DI2022-158.

9 Transitional provision

DI2022-158 continues to apply for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, inclusive.

Andrew Barr MLA
Treasurer

24 June 2023