

Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme) Determination 2015 (No 3)

Disallowable instrument DI2015–226

made under the

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

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

1. This instrument is the *Taxation Administration (Amounts Payable—Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme) Determination 2015 (No 3)*.
2. The instrument is taken to have commenced on 3 June 2015. This scheme was announced as part of the 2014–15 Budget, and is open to all people aged 60 years and over. This scheme assists non-pensioners to downsize and move to accommodation more suited to their needs, by reducing the conveyance duty payable on their new purchase. The scheme will run for a period of two years (2014–15 and 2015–16).
3. The criteria for the Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme align with those of the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme, apart from the determination of who is an eligible applicant for this scheme. The Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme has the same property ownership, property thresholds and residency requirements as the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme.
4. The *Taxation Administration Act 1999* (the TAA) deals with the administration of various tax laws relating to the imposition of certain taxes, duties and fees. These tax laws are specified in section 4 of the TAA. Section 139 of the TAA empowers the Minister to determine amounts payable for taxes, duties and fees, and the method by which an amount is to be calculated.
5. One of the specified tax laws is the *Duties Act 1999* (the Act). Chapter 2 of the Act deals with the grant of a Crown lease and the transfer or agreement for the transfer of a Crown lease which are subject to duty. Section 12 of the Act states that the duty is payable by the transferee (that is, the eligible home buyer), and section 5 of the Act states that the duty is payable to the Territory.
6. This instrument determines, for the purposes of the Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme:
 - (a) the eligibility criteria;
 - (b) the determination of amounts;
 - (c) the conditions;

- (d) the method of calculation of duty payable under section 31 of the Act; and
- (e) the time limit for applications.

Thresholds and calculation

7. The concessional rates of duty ensure that the amount of the concession progressively reduces to zero at and above the upper dutiable value thresholds. The dutiable value thresholds (i.e. the lower threshold and the upper threshold) are shown in this instrument, for both vacant land and property.
8. If the dutiable value of the eligible property or eligible vacant block is not higher than the lower threshold, an eligible home buyer is entitled to the maximum duty concession, and minimum duty of \$20 is payable.
9. A partial concession is available for purchases of eligible properties or eligible vacant blocks with a dutiable value more than the lower threshold, but less than the upper threshold. The concessional duty payable is the concessional rate of duty for each \$100 (or part thereof) of the difference between the dutiable value of the eligible property or the eligible vacant block, and the lower threshold. At and above the upper threshold, no concession is available.
10. The property value threshold amounts for the calculation of concessional duty for eligible property are as follows:
 - i. the lower threshold is equal to the lowest sale price of the highest 25% of all sale prices for ACT residential properties for the 2 quarters between October 2014 and March 2015. The determined value for the lower threshold is \$625,000 which is an increase of 2.4590% from the previous threshold of \$610,000; and
 - ii. the upper threshold is equal to the lowest sale price of the highest 10% of all sale prices for ACT residential properties for the 2 quarters between October 2014 and March 2015. The determined value for the upper threshold is \$807,000 which is an increase of 3.4615% from the previous threshold of \$780,000.
11. The land value threshold amounts applicable to the calculation of concessional duty for an eligible vacant block have been determined using the same percentage movement in property value threshold amounts from the previous determined amount, and as applying to the property value thresholds for eligible property in paragraph 10, rounded up to the nearest \$100. They are as follows:
 - i. the lower threshold is determined at \$332,100. It reflects a 2.4590% increase from the previous threshold of \$324,100; and
 - ii. the upper threshold is determined at \$391,700. It reflects a 3.4615% increase from the previous threshold of \$378,500.

Residency and other criteria

12. An applicant is not eligible for the concession if, at the date of grant, transfer, or agreement for transfer (whichever is first) of the subject property, the applicant holds an interest in land other than the subject property and the property from which the applicant is moving. The applicant must sell or have sold the property from which the applicant is moving, within 1 year of the date

of completion of the transfer or the date of the Certificate of Occupancy and Use for the subject property, or a longer period only if approved by the Commissioner for ACT Revenue (the Commissioner).

13. Ownership of the property being purchased must be in the same name or names as the property being sold (the Commissioner may take anomalous or unusual circumstances into consideration when assessing this criterion, if considered fair and reasonable to do so).
14. At least one of the applicants, who is also an owner of the existing property is aged 60 years and over.
15. The concession is restricted to a single concession for each applicant. An applicant must not receive this concession more than once.
16. An applicant for the Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme cannot have previously received the Pensioner Duty Concession. An applicant cannot receive both the Over 60s Home Bonus and the Pensioner Duty Concession.
17. At least one of the applicants must reside in the subject property as their principal place of residence continuously for a period of not less than 6 months. That period must commence within 1 year of completion of the transfer for an eligible property, or the date of the certificate of occupancy that is issued following completion of construction of the residence on the eligible vacant block.
18. This instrument provides for an exception to the requirement in section 6 (1) (c) that an applicant must not have an interest in any land other than the residential property from which they are moving and the subject property. For the exception to apply to the other interest in land, it must have been acquired by virtue of being an Executor or Trustee (but not a beneficiary) under a will.
19. While DI2015–107 expressed this requirement as applying to any property owned in the previous two years, this condition has been removed in this instrument as it is not part of the intended operation of the Over 60s Home Bonus Scheme. Consequently, exceptions relating to court orders and family law agreements have also been removed.
20. This instrument gives the Commissioner a discretion to extend the time for an applicant to meet the residency requirement in the event of an unforeseen circumstance (such as a health-related issue), or to approve a residency period shorter than 6 months, or to exempt the applicant from the residency requirements.
21. However, these discretions can only be exercised by the Commissioner where a written request to exercise them is made within 18 months of completion of the transfer for an eligible property, or the date of the certificate of occupancy, that is issued following completion of construction of the residence on the eligible vacant block.

Time limits for applications

22. Section 9 of this instrument clarifies that an application for concessional duty under the scheme must be received by the Commissioner within:
 - (a) 90 days of the grant, transfer or agreement for transfer (whichever is first); or

- (b) 14 days of the first occurrence of one of the events mentioned in Section 16A (1) of the Duties Act 1999, for an Off the Plan agreement.
23. Since 1 January 2015, if an application is not received within the relevant time limit required by section 9, the Commissioner may accept the late application if it is considered fair and reasonable to do so. Following acceptance of the late application, the Commissioner may reassess the duty liability in accordance with section 9 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*.

Revocation

24. This instrument revokes DI2015-107.