



Western Australia.

ANNO SEXAGESIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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No. VIII.

AN ACT to amend the Sixteenth Section of the Married Women's Property Act, 1892.

[Assented to, 23rd September, 1896.]

WHEREAS by Section Sixteen of the Married Women's Property Act, 1892, a wife is, under the circumstances therein mentioned, declared to be liable to criminal proceedings by her husband, and a doubt has arisen as to whether the husband is admissible as a witness against his wife in such criminal proceedings, while section twelve of the same Act declares that, in any proceeding under that section, a husband or wife shall be competent to give evidence against each other; and it is desirable that the said doubt should be removed, and the said Act otherwise amended: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Preamble.  
55 Vict., No. 20.

See 47 Vict. c. 14  
(Imp).

# 60° VICTORIÆ, No. 8.

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## *Married Women's Property, 1896.*

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Husband or wife  
competent witnesses  
in criminal proceed-  
ings under 55 Vict.,  
No. 20.

Short title.

1. IN any such criminal proceeding against a husband or a wife as is authorised by the Married Women's Property Act, 1892, the husband and wife respectively shall be competent and admissible witnesses, and, except when defendant, compellable to give evidence.

2. THIS Act may be cited as the Married Women's Property Act, 1896, and this Act and the Married Women's Property Acts, 1892 and 1895, may be cited together as the Married Women's Property Acts, 1892-1896.

In the name and on behalf of the Queen I hereby assent  
to this Act.

GERARD SMITH, Governor.