Western Australia

Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978

As at 25 Sep 2025 Official Version
[PCO 05-m0-01] Published on www.legislation.wa.gov.au

Western Australia

Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978

Contents

1.	Short title	1
2.	Commencement	1
3.	Terms used	1
4.	Application of this Act	4
4A.	Delegation by Director General	4
4B.	Agreements for performance of Director General's functions by others	5
5.	Local government's functions	6
6.	Driving and using off-road vehicles, offences	7
7.	Some vehicles to be registered under this Act	8
8.	Exceptions to s. 6(1) and (2), 9A, 9B and 9C	9
9.	Dangerous vehicles not to be driven etc.	11
9A.	Seat belt requirements for vehicles	11
9B.	Seat belt requirements for people in vehicles	12
9C.	Motor cycle helmet requirements	13
10.	Minimum age for drivers	14
12.	Permitted areas, declaring etc.	14
13.	Permitted areas, declaring before 6 Jan 1980	14
14.	Private land may be declared to be a permitted area	15
15.	Permitted area, temporary closure of	15
16.	Prohibited areas, establishing etc.	15
17.	Advisory Committee, establishment and functions of	17
18.	Committee's functions as to permitted areas, prohibited areas, and use of vehicles	18
19.	Permitted and prohibited areas, identifying	21
20.	Permitted areas and prohibited areas, application of to vehicles and effect of	22

21.	Advisory Committee, members and procedure of etc.	23
23.	Nominations of candidates for Advisory Committee, Minister may request	26
24.	Deputies of members, appointing etc.	27
25.	*Public Sector Management Act 1994*, application of to members	27
26.	Advisory Committee, departments etc. may assist	28
27.	Sub-committees, appointing	28
28.	Registration of vehicles, generally	28
28A.	Applying for registration etc. of vehicle	29
29.	Registration procedure	30
29A.	Transfer of vehicle registration	32
30.	Fees for registration, reductions in, refunds of etc.	34
31.	Registration obtained by dishonoured cheque is void	35
32.	Refund of registration fees	35
32A.	Nominated owner of vehicle, cancelling and changing	36
33.	Review by SAT of decision on registration	36
34.	Number plate to be displayed	37
35.	Other offences concerning number plates	37
36.	Road law provisions	38
37.	Infringement notices	38
38.	Authorised persons	41
39.	Evidentiary provisions for prosecutions	47
40.	Prosecutions, who may commence	48
42.	Detention of vehicles, court may order	49
43.	Expenses of this Act, appropriation of penalties etc.	50
44.	Regulations that operate as local laws, Governor may make	50
45.	Local laws, local government may make	51
45A.	Model local laws, Governor may make	51
45B.	Local laws, Governor may amend or repeal	52
46.	Regulations and local laws, general	52
47.	Local laws and local planning schemes, Governor may revoke or amend	53
48.	Regulations	54

49. Transitional provision for *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* 55

Notes

Compilation table 56
Uncommenced provisions table 60
Other notes 60

Defined terms

Western Australia

Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978

An Act to prohibit the use of vehicles in certain places, to make provision as to the use of vehicles otherwise than on a road, to provide for areas where the use of off-road vehicles shall be permitted, for the registration of off-road vehicles, and for related purposes.

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978*.

2. Commencement

The several provisions of this Act shall come into operation on such day or days as is, or are respectively, fixed by proclamation.

3. Terms used

(1) In this Act unless the contrary intention appears —

authorised person means a person to whom section 38(1) applies;

certificate of registration or ***certificate*** means a certificate issued under section 29;

Committee means the Advisory Committee constituted pursuant to section 21;

Department means a department of the Public Service of the State;

Director General means the chief executive officer of the department of the Public Service principally assisting the Minister in the administration of this Act;

district means, in relation to a local government, the district of that local government plus any other areas which the Governor has declared, under section 5(3), are to be regarded as being part of the district;

drive includes riding a vehicle, and ***driver*** includes a rider having the control of a vehicle;

infringement notice means a notice of the kind referred to in section 37(1);

motor car means a vehicle that is not a motor cycle and that is designed —

(a) mainly to carry people; and

(b) to seat not more than 8 adults (including the driver);

motor cycle means a vehicle that —

(a) is designed to travel on 2 wheels; or

(b) although not designed to travel on 2 wheels, is designed so that the driver sits astride it, or part of it, in a manner similar to that customary for a vehicle designed to travel on 2 wheels;

off-road vehicle means a vehicle which is not licensed, deemed to be licensed, or the subject of a permit granted, under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*;

owner, in relation to a vehicle, means —

(a) the person who is entitled to the immediate possession of the vehicle; or

(b) if there are several persons entitled to its immediate possession, the person whose entitlement is paramount,

but if one of 2 or more persons fitting that description has been nominated for the purposes of section 3(2), it means only the person nominated;

permitted area means an area declared as such by the Minister pursuant to section 12 or to section 13 and specified in a notice published pursuant to section 12;

private land means land of a kind to which the provisions of section 39(2)(a) applies, or land to which paragraph (b) of that subsection relates;

prohibited area means an area established as such by the Minister and specified in a notice published pursuant to section 16;

public authority means a Department or State instrumentality, a local government within its district, and any other person or body, whether corporate or not, who or which under the authority of any Act is charged with the carrying out of any duty whilst acting in the discharge of that duty;

responsible person, for a vehicle, means a person responsible for the vehicle under the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008* section 6;

road means any highway, road or street, open to, or used by, the public;

seat belt means a belt or similar device that is fitted to a motor vehicle and designed to restrain or limit the movement of a person who is seated in the vehicle and wearing the belt or device if the vehicle suddenly accelerates or decelerates but does not include —

(a) a seat belt solely or principally designed to restrain or limit the movement of a person of less than 8 years of age; or

(b) a seat belt which is damaged, or which is defective and is not capable of being worn or of being properly adjusted or securely fastened;

seat position in relation to a motor vehicle other than a motor cycle, means a seat position intended for one person and, in the case of contiguous seating positions intended for more than one

person, means each complete space of not less than 410 mm measured along the front of the seat;

vehicle means a vehicle that is propelled by an engine or other mechanical source of power.

(2) Where any off-road vehicle is owned by more than one person and one of those persons is nominated by all such persons by notice in writing given to the Director General, the nominated person shall, subject to section 11(3), for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be the owner of that vehicle.

[Section 3 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 31 and 34; No. 102 of 1984 s. 4; No. 12 of 1985 s. 3; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 30 of 1996 s. 13; No. 76 of 1996 s. 23 and 27; No. 39 of 2000 s. 50; No. 28 of 2001 s. 30; No. 7 of 2002 s. 4; No. 28 of 2006 s. 356; No. 8 of 2009 s. 40; No. 8 of 2012 s. 63; No. 16 of 2019 s. 100.]

4. Application of this Act

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the provisions of this Act apply throughout the State.

(2) The Governor may from time to time by proclamation declare that the provisions of this Act, or such of those provisions as may be therein specified, shall not apply to or in relation to such part or parts of the State as are therein specified and thereupon such provisions of this Act shall not have effect in the area so specified.

(3) The Governor may by a subsequent proclamation vary or cancel any proclamation made under subsection (2).

4A. Delegation by Director General

(1) The Director General may delegate to a person any power or duty of the Director General under another provision of this Act.

(2) The delegation must be in writing signed by the Director General.

(3) If a person is not employed in the Director General's department, a power or duty can only be delegated to the person under this section if the person has been approved by the Minister for the purposes of this section.

(4) An approval under subsection (3) may be given in respect of —

(a) a specified person or persons of a specified class; or

(b) the holder or holders for the time being of a specified office or class of office.

(5) A person to whom a power or duty is delegated under this section cannot delegate that power or duty.

(6) A person exercising or performing a power or duty that has been delegated to the person under this section, is to be taken to do so in accordance with the terms of the delegation unless the contrary is shown.

(7) Nothing in this section limits the ability of the Director General to perform a function through an officer or agent.

[Section 4A inserted: No. 7 of 2002 s. 5.]

4B. Agreements for performance of Director General's functions by others

(1) The Director General may enter into an agreement providing for the Director General's functions under this Act that are described in the agreement to be performed on behalf of the Director General.

(2) The agreement may be with the Commissioner of Police, a local government, or any other person or body, whether or not the person or body has itself functions of a public nature.

(3) A function described in the agreement may be performed —

(a) in accordance with the agreement; and

(b) on and subject to terms and conditions in the agreement.

(4) If the performance of a function is dependent upon the opinion, belief, or state of mind of the Director General it may be performed under the agreement upon the opinion, belief, or state of mind of the body or person with whom the agreement is made or another person provided for in the agreement.

(5) For the purposes of this Act or any other written law, an act or thing done by, to, by reference to, or in relation to, a body or person in connection with the performance by that body or person under the agreement of a function of the Director General is as effectual as if it had been done by, to, by reference to, or in relation to, the Director General.

[Section 4B inserted: No. 7 of 2002 s. 5.]

5. Local government's functions

(1) Subject to the Minister, and in co-operation with the Director General, it shall be the duty of a local government to administer and enforce the provisions of this Act within its district.

[(2) deleted]

(3) Where in the opinion of the Governor the powers conferred by this Act on a local government should be exercised by that local government in an area outside the district the Governor may by Order published in the *Government Gazette* declare that for the purpose of this Act the area is to be regarded as being within the district and the provisions of this Act shall then apply as if in fact the area were within the district.

(4) For the purposes of this Act a district shall be taken to include the land lying between mean high water mark at spring tides of the main sea and mean low water mark at spring tides of the main sea adjacent to that district.

[(5) deleted]

[Section 5 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 32 and 34; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 7 of 2002 s. 6; No. 16 of 2019 s. 101.]

6. Driving and using off-road vehicles, offences

(1) A person must not drive or use an off-road vehicle in any area to which this section applies otherwise than —

(a) on private land by consent; or

(b) on land comprised within a permitted area,

unless permitted to do so pursuant to section 8(4) or deemed to have been permitted to do so pursuant to subsection (5) of that section.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(2) A person must not drive or use any vehicle to which, or in the circumstances to which, a declaration made and published under section 16 applies on land comprised within a prohibited area to which the declaration relates unless permitted to do so pursuant to section 8(4).

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) apply notwithstanding that the driving or use of the vehicle on the land in question may have been authorised by the owner or occupier of that land.

(4) A person must not use or drive an off-road vehicle on any land whether or not private land —

(a) in a manner which creates or causes any undue or excessive noise; or

(b) unless an efficient silencing device, so constructed that all exhaust from the engine is projected through the device in such a manner as effectively to prevent the creation of undue noise, is securely fitted to the engine; or

(c) unless it complies with such other requirements as to the control of noise as may be prescribed.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 6 amended: No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

7. Some vehicles to be registered under this Act

(1) Subject to the provisions of any notice published pursuant to subsection (3) all vehicles driven or used in an area of the State to which this subsection applies, other than —

(a) vehicles for the time being licensed under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*; or

(b) vehicles used exclusively on private land by consent,

are required to be registered under this Act.

(2) A person must not —

(a) fail to register a vehicle required to be registered under this Act; or

(b) drive or use, or permit to be driven or used, a vehicle required to be registered under this Act and which is not so registered.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(3) The Minister may, by notice published in the *Government Gazette*, provide that the requirements of subsection (1) do not apply —

(a) to or in relation to persons or vehicles, or classes of persons or kinds of vehicles, specified in that notice either generally or by description; or

(b) at any specified time, or in relation to any specified area of the State, place or circumstance,

and may by a subsequent notice vary or cancel any such notice.

[Section 7 amended: No. 8 of 2012 s. 64; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

8. Exceptions to s. 6(1) and (2), 9A, 9B and 9C

(1) The driving or use of a vehicle in circumstances that would otherwise be contrary to the provisions of section 6(1) or (2) is permitted —

(a) where the vehicle is used or intended to be used for the conveyance of an incapacitated person and is designed for use solely for that purpose; or

(b) for purposes connected with the prevention, control, or extinguishing of fires, or for or in relation to the saving of life or the alleviation of injury or illness; or

(c) by an authorised person in the course of his duty; or

(d) by the holder of a permit relevant to the place and circumstances granted under subsection (4) or deemed to have been granted under subsection (5) in accordance with the terms of that permit; or

(e) where the vehicle is being used for the lawful purposes of a public authority.

(1a) The driving or use of or travelling as a passenger in a vehicle in circumstances that would otherwise be contrary to the provisions of section 9A, 9B or 9C is permitted for purposes connected with the prevention, control or extinguishing of fires or for or in relation to the saving of life or the alleviation of injury or illness.

(2) The driving or use of or travelling as a passenger in a vehicle in circumstances that would otherwise be contrary to section 6(1), 9A, 9B or 9C is permitted when that vehicle is being used for or in connection with primary production, the development of any

mining tenement, *bona fide* prospecting, construction works, or for road making or road maintenance, and not for any other purpose.

(3) In any prosecution for an offence against this Act the onus of proving that a vehicle was being used for any of the purposes referred to in subsection (1) or subsection (2) lies on the person alleging that the vehicle was being so used.

(4) The Minister may, in writing, grant to any person or body a permit authorising the driving or use of or travelling as a passenger in a vehicle in circumstances that would otherwise have been contrary to section 6(1) or (2), 9A, 9B or 9C either generally or subject to such restrictions, limitations or conditions as he may determine and as are specified therein, and may by subsequent notice in writing vary or cancel any such permit.

(5) The Minister may, by notice published in the *Government Gazette*, declare that the provisions of section 6(1) do not apply to or in relation to the persons or classes of persons or kinds of vehicle specified therein, and thereupon the driving or use of a vehicle by such a person or the driving and use of such a vehicle in circumstances that would otherwise have been contrary to the provisions of that subsection shall be deemed to have been permitted pursuant to this subsection either generally or subject to such restrictions, limitations or conditions as are specified in that notice, and the Minister may by a subsequent notice vary or cancel any such notice.

(6) Regulations made under this Act may make provision, either generally or in relation to specified classes of case, with respect to the application for and grant of permits under this section, and may make differing provisions therefor, including varying scales of charges.

[Section 8 amended: No. 12 of 1985 s. 4; No. 16 of 2019 s. 104.]

9. Dangerous vehicles not to be driven etc.

A person must not drive or use on any land to which this Act applies any vehicle so constructed or in such a condition as to be likely to occasion danger to any person or damage to any property.

Penalty: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 9 amended: No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

9A. Seat belt requirements for vehicles

(1) A person must not drive or use or permit to be driven or used a vehicle to which this section applies in an area to which this section applies unless the vehicle is equipped with —

(a) a seat belt for every seat position in the vehicle conforming to the standards and specifications prescribed by regulations; and

(b) seat belt anchorage points or seat belt anchorages in respect of every seat position in the vehicle conforming to the standards and specifications prescribed by regulations.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(2) This section applies to motor cars and to off-road vehicles but does not apply to motor cycles.

(3) This section applies in every area of the State to which the provisions of this Act apply except —

(a) on a road; or

(b) on private land on which the vehicle is used by consent, being private land that is neither a permitted area nor a prohibited area.

[Section 9A inserted: No. 12 of 1985 s. 5; amended: No. 28 of 2001 s. 31; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

9B. Seat belt requirements for people in vehicles

(1) A person must not, while occupying a seat position in a motor vehicle to which this section applies and to which a seat belt has been fitted for that seat position, drive or travel as a passenger in an area to which this section applies unless he is wearing that seat belt and the seat belt is properly adjusted and securely fastened.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(2) A person must not, in a motor vehicle to which this section applies and to which seat belts have been fitted and in an area to which this section applies, travel as a passenger in or on any part of the vehicle other than in a seat position for which a seat belt has been fitted unless each seat position for which a seat belt is fitted is occupied.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(3) This section applies to motor cars and to off-road vehicles but does not apply to motor cycles.

(4) This section applies in every area of the State to which the provisions of this Act apply except —

(a) on a road; or

(b) on private land on which the vehicle is used by consent, being private land that is neither a permitted area nor a prohibited area.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), it is a defence to a charge of an offence against a person under subsection (1) or (2) that the person —

(a) is driving or travelling in a motor vehicle that is travelling backwards; or

(b) is in possession of a certificate signed by a qualified medical practitioner certifying that the person is unable for medical reasons to wear a seat belt, or that because of the person's size, build or other physical characteristics, it would be unreasonable to require him to wear a seat belt, while driving or travelling in a motor vehicle; or

(c) is under the age of 3 years; or

(d) is travelling as a passenger in a motor vehicle and is of or over the age of 70 years.

(6) Where a certificate of the kind referred to in subsection (5)(b) is expressed to be of effect for a specified period, the certificate ceases to have effect for the purposes of that subsection at the expiration of the period so specified.

[Section 9B inserted: No. 12 of 1985 s. 5; amended: No. 28 of 2001 s. 32; No. 84 of 2004 s. 80; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

9C. Motor cycle helmet requirements

(1) A person must not drive or, being a person of not less than 6 years of age, travel as a passenger on a motor cycle in an area to which this section applies unless he is wearing securely on his head a protective helmet of a type and standard prescribed by regulations.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply so as to require the wearing of a protective helmet by a person who has been exempted in writing by the Director General from that requirement for a reason relating to the person's medical condition or for any other reason considered sufficient by the Director General.

(3) This section applies in every area of the State to which the provisions of this Act apply except —

(a) on a road; or

(b) on private land on which the vehicle is used by consent, being private land that is neither a permitted area nor a prohibited area.

[Section 9C inserted: No. 12 of 1985 s. 5; amended: No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

10. Minimum age for drivers

A person must not knowingly permit any other person under the age of 8 years to have charge of a vehicle on any land to which this Act applies, otherwise than on private land by consent.

Penalty: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 10 amended: No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

*[**11.** Has not come into operation.]*

12. Permitted areas, declaring etc.

(1) Following the publication of proposals by the Committee and consideration of any submissions relating thereto in the manner required by section 18, the Minister may, with the consent of the Governor, by notice published in the *Government Gazette* declare any land, other than private land, to be a permitted area for the purposes of this Act, and may in like manner but subject to section 18(3) vary or cancel any such declaration, and subject to the provisions of this Act effect shall be given to any such declaration.

(2) A declaration as to a permitted area made under this section shall take effect on the date of the publication in the *Government Gazette* of the notice referred to in subsection (1) or such later date as may be specified in that notice.

13. Permitted areas, declaring before 6 Jan 1980

The Minister may, with the consent of the Governor, within 3 months of the coming into operation of this section exercise the power conferred by section 12(1) to declare an area to be a

permitted area notwithstanding that the initial proposal was not published or was not referred to the Committee, any local government, any public authority, or other person or body likely to be affected and that no recommendation in relation thereto was received from the Committee, but subsequent to the initial declaration of the area the provisions of section 12 shall apply to and in relation to any intended variation or cancellation of that permitted area.

[Section 13 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

14. Private land may be declared to be a permitted area

The owner of any private land may in writing authorise the Minister to declare that land to be a permitted area for the purpose of this Act, and the Minister may, subject to any limitation imposed by that authorisation, thereupon exercise the powers conferred by section 12(1) in relation to that land or any part of that land as though that land had not been private land.

15. Permitted area, temporary closure of

(1) The Minister may, by notice published in the *Government Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating particularly in the locality of the land affected, close the whole or a specified part of a permitted area for the period and purposes therein specified and during the period so specified the land to which the notice relates shall be deemed not to be a permitted area.

(2) A period of closure effected pursuant to subsection (1) shall not extend beyond 6 consecutive months unless renewed by notice so published; but may be varied within such limitation and may be revoked by a notice so published.

16. Prohibited areas, establishing etc.

(1) Following the publication of proposals by the Committee and consideration of any submissions relating thereto in the manner required by section 18, the Minister, if he is of the opinion that

the public interest so requires, may, with the consent of the Governor, by notice published in the *Government Gazette* establish any land specified therein, whether or not private land and notwithstanding that the owner or occupier of that land does not consent to the proposals, as a prohibited area for the purposes of this Act either in relation to vehicles generally or, pursuant to section 20(2), in relation to specified vehicles or circumstances.

(2) A declaration made and published under subsection (1) may, subject to the provisions of section 18(3), be varied or cancelled by a subsequent declaration so made and published.

(3) A declaration made under this section shall take effect on the date of the publication of the notice in the *Government Gazette* or on such later date as may be specified in that notice.

(4) Where pursuant to subsection (1) any private land is included within a prohibited area for the purposes of this Act a person who is the owner or an occupier normally resident on that land, or who is engaged in the working of that land on behalf of any such owner or occupier, who drives or uses a vehicle on that land shall not be taken to contravene the provisions of section 6(2).

(4a) Where pursuant to subsection (1) any private land is included within a prohibited area for the purposes of this Act, a person who is the owner or an occupier normally resident on that land, or who is engaged in the working of that land on behalf of any such owner or occupier, who drives or uses or travels as a passenger in a vehicle on that land in circumstances that but for this subsection would constitute an offence against section 9A, 9B or 9C shall not in such circumstances be taken to contravene section 9A, 9B or 9C as the case may be.

(5) The Minister shall not exercise the power conferred by subsection (1) in relation to any private land without the consent of the owner and of any lawful occupier of that land unless it is

the opinion of the Minister that the public interest so requires by reason of —

(a) the need to provide for the protection of livestock or the preservation of any wildlife or flora; or

(b) the environmentally sensitive nature of the land or things growing on the land; or

(c) the proximity of any land used for residential purposes, or for purposes likely to be incompatible with the use of vehicles in the vicinity; or

(d) the provisions of any local planning scheme or improvement scheme under the *Planning and Development Act 2005* or the Swan Valley Planning Scheme in force under the *Swan Valley Planning Act 2020*.

[Section 16 amended: No. 12 of 1985 s. 6; No. 38 of 2005 s. 15; No. 28 of 2010 s. 29; No. 45 of 2020 s. 97.]

17. Advisory Committee, establishment and functions of

(1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be an Advisory Committee constituted in accordance with section 21.

(2) It shall be the general duty of the Committee to advise the Minister on matters relating to the use of land by vehicles, as to private and other land to which it is proposed that the provisions of this Act should be applied or to which such provisions do apply, and as to such other matters as are referred to the Committee by the Minister.

(3) The Committee shall —

(a) consider, and make recommendations to the Minister upon, submissions, proposals, complaints and objections received from members of the public generally in relation to the use or proposed use of any land by vehicles; and

(b) consider and advise the Minister upon submissions made by any local government, owners or occupiers of land, public authorities, and other interests likely to be substantially affected by the operation of this Act in relation to any land to which the provisions of this Act apply or may be applied; and

(c) carry on consultations with such bodies or persons as to the effect from time to time of the use of any land by vehicles.

(4) The Minister may give to the Committee directions of a general character as to the exercise of its functions, and the Committee shall give effect to such a direction, but any such direction may distinguish between different classes of case.

(5) The Committee shall, in so far as those duties are consistent with the provisions of this Act, carry out such duties as may be required of it by the Minister in furtherance of the objectives of this Act, but may, of its own initiative, bring any other matter relevant to this Act to the notice of the Minister.

[Section 17 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

18. Committee's functions as to permitted areas, prohibited areas, and use of vehicles

(1) Except in so far as the provisions of section 13 apply, the Minister shall not declare any land to be a permitted area, or declare any land to be established as a prohibited area, until the recommendations of the Committee have been sought by him, and the Minister is required to have regard to, but not necessarily to give effect to, any recommendations the Committee may make in relation to the locality in question.

(2) The Committee may, and if the Minister so requires shall, prepare and submit to the Minister recommendations as to the declaration of permitted areas and prohibited areas, and in relation to the variation, temporary closure, or cancellation of such areas from time to time.

(3) The Minister shall refer to the Committee any question as to the declaration, variation or cancellation of a permitted area or a prohibited area which is not of a nature that falls within existing recommendations of the Committee or which does not relate only to a minor variation.

(4) Where the Minister is of the opinion that an investigation and recommendation of the Committee is necessary or expedient in relation to the use of any kind of vehicle the Minister may require the Committee to make such investigation and recommendation.

(5) The Committee shall not make any recommendation under this Act in relation to the declaration of any land as a permitted area or prohibited area or as to the cancellation of any such declaration without a prior investigation, notice of which the Committee shall cause to be published in a newspaper circulating throughout the State and in any newspaper circulating particularly in, or in the vicinity of, the locality of the land to be investigated.

(6) The notice to be published pursuant to subsection (5) shall —

(a) describe the land to be investigated sufficiently to enable it to be readily determined;

(b) state the general nature of the proposals;

(c) give an address where further details of the land and of the proposals may be obtained, and a plan of the land and its general location may be inspected;

(d) state that submissions sent to the Committee at the address and in the manner therein specified will be considered if they are received within 30 days of such notice.

(7) For the purposes of preparing a report on an investigation the Committee shall send a copy of the notice published under subsection (5) to, and have regard to the views of, —

(a) any local government —

(i) in the district of which the land, or any part of the land, to which the proposals relate is situated or is regarded as being situated for the purposes of this Act; or

(ii) the inhabitants of whose district are by reason of proximity likely to be affected by the proposals;

and

(b) the CEO within the meaning of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and any public authority that in the opinion of the Committee has an interest in the land to which the proposals relate or in the use of that land or land likely to be affected by the proposals; and

(c) any person or body who or which in the opinion of the Committee has an especial interest in respect of the investigation,

and shall consider any submissions on, or objections to, the proposals received within the period specified in the notice published under subsection (5) or such longer period as may be agreed upon.

(8) On completing an investigation under this section the Committee shall prepare a report setting out the recommendations of the Committee, specifically drawing to the notice of the Minister all objections received and advising the Minister thereon.

[Section 18 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 54 of 2003 s. 142.]

19. Permitted and prohibited areas, identifying

(1) Where any land is declared to be a permitted area or is established as a prohibited area for the purposes of this Act the Minister must as soon as is practicable thereafter —

(a) cause a map of the area and a description of the land to be made available for inspection by interested persons —

(i) at the office of the Western Australian Land Information Authority established by the *Land Information Authority Act 2006* section 5; and

(ii) at the office of any local government, the district of which for the purpose of this Act is wholly or partly within the area; and

(iii) at such other places likely to be convenient to persons affected by the declaration as he may think fit;

and

(b) cause a notice, briefly describing the area concerned and stating where a map of the area may be inspected, to be published in a newspaper circulating in each of the districts wholly or partly affected.

(2) It is not necessary that the boundaries of any permitted area or prohibited area be surveyed or demarcated but where practicable the local government of the district in which the boundary is situated must delineate that boundary by the erection or establishment of suitable notices or marks.

(3) A person must not destroy, damage, alter, move, or interfere with any notice or mark erected or established pursuant to subsection (2).

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 19 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 60 of 2006 s. 128; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

20. Permitted areas and prohibited areas, application of to vehicles and effect of

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 8(4) and (5), a declaration of an area of land as a permitted area for the purposes of this Act —

(a) may apply in relation to vehicles generally, or may be limited in its application to vehicles of the class or kind specified therein or to vehicles of that class or kind when used in the manner or in the circumstances thereby permitted;

(b) may apply so that the area in question is a permitted area in respect of some classes or kinds of vehicles notwithstanding that it is not a permitted area in relation to other vehicles;

(c) has no effect in or in relation to any part of the State, and if in force in relation to any such area ceases to have effect, where under the provisions of any other Act or law of the State or of the Commonwealth access thereto or the use of vehicles therein is or becomes prohibited.

(2) Subject to the provisions of section 8(4), a declaration made and published under section 16 establishing an area of land as a prohibited area for the purposes of this Act —

(a) may apply in relation to vehicles generally; and

(b) may apply in relation to vehicles generally except when used in the manner or circumstances therein specified; and

(c) may be limited in its application to vehicles of the class or kind specified, or to vehicles of that class or kind when used in the manner or in the circumstances thereby prohibited; and

(d) may apply so that the area in question is a prohibited area in respect of some classes or kinds of vehicles or in specified circumstances notwithstanding that it is not a

prohibited area in relation to other vehicles or in other circumstances.

(3) An area of land may be declared to be a permitted area in relation to specified vehicles or circumstances notwithstanding that it is established as a prohibited area in relation to other vehicles or other circumstances.

(4) Regulations and local laws made under this Act may make provision for the control of vehicles in a permitted area and for the safety and obligations of persons who use vehicles in the area, and a person must not drive or use a vehicle in a permitted area unless he complies in all respects with such regulations and local laws and any conditions, restrictions or limitations thereby imposed.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 20 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

21. Advisory Committee, members and procedure of etc.

(1) The Advisory Committee shall consist of 7 permanent members of whom—

(a) one shall hold office as Chairman of that Committee; and

(b) 2 shall be persons selected from a panel of names submitted to the Minister by the body known as the Western Australian Local Government Association; and

[(c) deleted]

(d) 2 shall be persons selected from amongst persons who have in the opinion of the Minister appropriate experience in the operation of off-road vehicles; and

(e) one shall be a person selected from amongst persons who have in the opinion of the Minister appropriate experience in the operation of four wheel drive vehicles; and

(f) one shall be a person nominated by the Minister to whom the administration of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* is for the time being committed by the Governor, being a person who in the opinion of that Minister has appropriate experience in environmental matters,

each of whom shall be appointed by the Minister and shall hold office for such period not exceeding 3 years as is specified in the instrument of appointment, unless his appointment is sooner terminated pursuant to this Act.

(2) The person appointed as Chairman of the Committee shall preside at all meetings at which he is present.

(3) In the absence of the Chairman, the permanent members present shall select one of their number to preside at the meeting and the member so selected shall whilst so presiding have and may exercise all the powers of the Chairman.

(4) The Committee shall hold meetings at such times and places as it determines, but the Minister or the Chairman may at any time convene a meeting of the Committee.

(5) The quorum at any meeting of the Committee shall be constituted by not less than 4 permanent members.

(6) The permanent members are eligible to attend every meeting of the Committee and to vote on any matter.

(7) The Minister may for the purposes of any meeting co-opt any person possessing special experience, knowledge or qualifications, or having a particular interest, relevant to the matters under consideration, and a person so co-opted is not eligible to vote but in all other respects shall be deemed to be a member of the Committee for the purposes of that meeting.

[(8) deleted]

(9) A person who has no right to vote or be heard on any particular matter may, with the consent of the member presiding, nevertheless speak to, and be heard, on the matter.

(10) Each member present and eligible to vote may cast a deliberative vote on any question and the question shall be decided by the majority, but if the votes are equal the question shall be taken to have been decided in the negative.

(11) A person who is a member of the Committee, other than a person to whom Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, applies, may be paid such remuneration or allowances as the Minister from time to time determines, and any member of the Committee may be reimbursed in respect of expenditure incurred pursuant to this Act in such manner as the Minister may determine.

(12) Subject to the requirement that a quorum be present at any meeting, the performance or exercise of any function, duty or obligation shall not be affected by reason only of there being a vacancy in the office of a member.

(13) Subject to this Act, and to any direction which may be given by the Minister, the proceedings of the Committee may be regulated in such manner as the members think fit.

(14) A record of the proceedings of every meeting shall be kept by the Committee and shall be amended as necessary and thereafter certified as correct by the member presiding at that or the next succeeding meeting.

(15) The office of a member becomes vacant if —

(a) his term of office expires; or

(b) he is a person in respect of whom an administration order is in force under Part 6 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990* or he otherwise becomes permanently incapable of performing his duties as a member; or

(c) he resigns his office by written notice addressed to the Minister; or

(d) he is, according to the *Interpretation Act 1984* section 13D, a bankrupt or a person whose affairs are under insolvency laws; or

(e) he is removed from office by the Minister on the grounds —

(i) of neglect of duty, incompetence or misbehaviour; or

(ii) that he has ceased to represent the interest in relation to which he was appointed.

(16) All acts done at any meeting shall, notwithstanding it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of a person purporting to be a member, be as valid as if that defect had not existed.

[Section 21 amended: No. 56 of 1986 s. 4; No. 24 of 1990 s. 123; No. 32 of 1994 s. 3(1); No. 49 of 2004 s. 13; No. 28 of 2006 s. 357; No. 18 of 2009 s. 22.]

*[**22.** Deleted: No. 28 of 2006 s. 358.]*

23. Nominations of candidates for Advisory Committee, Minister may request

Where a body has, by virtue of section 21, the right to submit to the Minister a panel of the names of persons to be considered for selection and appointment to the membership of the Committee the Minister may, as the occasion requires, by notice in writing to a responsible officer of that body request that body to submit those names within such period of not less than 30 days as is therein specified and if upon the expiration of that period no person, or no suitable person, is so nominated the Minister may appoint to membership of the Committee such person as, having regard to the interests in respect of which the person was to be so nominated, the Minister thinks fit.

24. Deputies of members, appointing etc.

(1) The Minister may, in respect of each member of the Committee other than the Chairman, appoint a person to be deputy to that member and a person so appointed is, in the event of the absence from any meeting of that member, entitled to attend that meeting of the Committee and, when so attending, is deemed to be a member and has all the powers and duties of a member.

(2) If at any time the office of a member becomes vacant, the person who is at that time the deputy of that member is, until the office of that member is filled by the appointment of another person as member, deemed to be a member and has all the powers and duties of a member.

(3) The provisions of section 21(1)(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f), and of section 23, that apply to and in relation to the appointment of a member apply, with any necessary modification, to and in relation to the appointment of the deputy of that member.

[Section 24 amended: No. 56 of 1986 s. 5.]

25. *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, application of to members

(1) Acceptance of or acting in the office of a member of the Committee by any person does not of itself render the provisions of Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, or any other Act applying to persons as officers of the Public Service of the State, applicable to that person, or affect or prejudice the application to him of those provisions if they applied to him at the time of the acceptance of or acting in that office.

(2) Where the services of any person are for the time being utilised by the Committee under the provisions of this Act, it does not prejudice that person's existing or accruing rights under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, or under any other Act, and service rendered on behalf of the Committee pursuant to

this Act shall be regarded as not constituting a break in the service in which he would otherwise have been employed.

[Section 25 amended: No. 32 of 1994 s. 3(1).]

26. Advisory Committee, departments etc. may assist

All Departments and all instrumentalities of the Government of the State and all other authorities, whether corporate or not corporate, established or administered pursuant to any Act (including any local government) are hereby authorised to give to the Committee such assistance in the carrying out of its functions as is reasonably practical.

[Section 26 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

27. Sub-committees, appointing

The Committee may, from time to time, appoint a sub-committee or sub-committees, consisting in each case of 2 or more persons who need not be members of the Committee, to advise the Committee on such matters relating to its functions as are referred by the Committee to the sub-committee.

28. Registration of vehicles, generally

(1) The scheme of registration of vehicles under this Act is to be administered by the Director General, who is to maintain a separate financial record in relation to that scheme.

(2) The Director General shall maintain a register of the particulars of —

(a) the registrations of vehicles and renewals thereof effected under this Act; and

(b) transfers of registration effected under this Act.

[(3) deleted]

(4) Nothing in this Act shall require the Director General to register, renew or transfer the registration of, a vehicle which is

so constructed or is in such a condition that in the opinion of the Director General it would occasion danger to any person or damage to property.

(5) The registration of a vehicle under this Act, or the renewal or transfer of any such registration, may be withheld until the vehicle has been examined by a person authorised by the Director General.

(6) Where it appears to the Director General that any vehicle registered under this Act is so constructed or in such condition that it is likely to occasion danger to any person or damage to property, the registration of that vehicle may be suspended by a notice in the prescribed form served personally or by post on the person in whose name the vehicle is registered.

(7) During the period of any suspension of the registration of a vehicle under this Act the vehicle shall for all purposes of this Act be deemed to be an unregistered vehicle.

(8) The suspension of the registration of a vehicle under this Act may be withdrawn by a notice in the prescribed form served personally or by post on the person in whose name the vehicle is registered.

[Section 28 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 39 of 2000 s. 51; No. 7 of 2002 s. 8.]

28A. Applying for registration etc. of vehicle

(1) An owner of a vehicle may apply for the registration, renewal of registration or transfer of registration of a vehicle under this Act by —

(a) submitting an application in a form approved by the Director General; and

(b) providing a statutory declaration made pursuant to section 106 of the *Evidence Act 1906*, in a form approved by the Director General as to the compliance

of the vehicle with the prescribed safety and noise requirements; and

(c) paying any fee that would be required by section 29.

(2) Upon an application under subsection (1), the Director General must —

(a) register, renew the registration of, or transfer the registration of, a vehicle; and

(b) issue to the owner a certificate of that registration, and on payment of the prescribed fee a number plate displaying the symbols or numbers or the symbols and numbers allotted to the vehicle by the Director General,

if, in the case of an application by an individual the applicant has attained the age of 18 years.

(3) A vehicle cannot be registered in the name of more than one person at a particular time.

(4) Any one of 2 or more owners may apply for the issue or transfer of a registration and the application is to be signed by each of them.

(5) An application under subsection (4) is to be regarded as notice of the nomination of the applicant for the purposes of section 3(2).

(6) The Director General must refund any amount paid by a person in connection with an application under this section that is refused.

[Section 28A inserted: No. 39 of 2000 s. 52; amended: No. 8 of 2025 s. 15.]

29. Registration procedure

[(1), (2) deleted]

(3) The registration of a vehicle granted under section 28A is valid for such period of not less than 6 months and not more than

18 months as is determined by the Director General and specified in the certificate of registration.

(4) Regulations made under this Act may make differing provision in respect of the registration fees to be payable in relation to specified classes or kinds of vehicles or by reference to the ownership of the vehicle or to the location of the vehicle or the purposes for which the vehicle is designed or adapted or is to be used, and may provide that no such fee is payable in specified circumstances.

(5) Subject to the provisions of section 28, where an application for the renewal of the registration of a vehicle is made under section 28A —

(a) within the period of 30 days immediately preceding the day on which the registration expires; or

(b) within the period of 15 days immediately succeeding the day on which the registration expired,

the Director General must renew the registration for a period of 12 months and the renewal is deemed to be a continuation of the registration and to have effect on and from the day next succeeding the day on which the registration expires or expired.

(6) Where an application for the renewal of the registration of a vehicle is made after the expiration of the period of 15 days immediately succeeding the day on which the registration expired, the Director General may renew the registration for a period which terminates 12 months after the date of expiration of the registration which has already expired but that renewal takes effect on and from the day on which it is effected and the fee payable is the fee applicable to a full 12 month period.

[(7)-(10) deleted]

(11) A person must not, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of any other person, knowingly make any false or misleading statement in relation to the registration of a vehicle under this Act, or to any application in respect thereof.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 29 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 39 of 2000 s. 53; No. 7 of 2002 s. 9; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

29A. Transfer of vehicle registration

(1) Where a person to whom a certificate of registration of a vehicle has been granted ceases to be the owner of the vehicle, the person must —

(a) within 7 days of ceasing to be the owner give notice in writing to the Director General of the name and address of the new owner of the vehicle; and

(b) if the registration had, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, been granted or renewed without payment of a fee or on payment of a reduced registration fee which was less than the fee that would otherwise have been payable in relation to that vehicle had the particular circumstances not applied, and unless the provisions of section 30(1) have been complied with, within 7 days after ceasing to be the owner, return the certificate of registration and the number plate issued in respect of that vehicle to the Director General.

(2) A person who becomes the owner of a vehicle in respect of which a certificate of registration has been granted must, within 14 days after becoming the owner, give notice in writing to the Director General of that fact.

(3) As soon as practicable after receiving notice under subsection (1)(a) or (2), or otherwise, of a change in the ownership of a vehicle in respect of which a certificate of registration has been granted, if the Director General is satisfied

that the registration may be transferred under section 28A(2) and no application has been made under section 28A(1), the Director General may issue to the new owner a notice requiring that —

(a) an application for the transfer of the registration to the new owner be made under section 28A; or

(b) the number plates issued in respect of the vehicle be delivered up to the Director General.

(4) In subsection (3) —

new owner, in relation to a vehicle, means a person who, according to the notice received by the Director General, has become a new owner of the vehicle and, if there is more than one such person, each or any of them.

(5) A person to whom a notice is issued under subsection (3)(b) commits an offence if an application for the transfer of the registration for the vehicle is not made within 28 days after the notice is issued, or any longer period that the Director General allows, unless it can be shown that —

(a) the person did not agree to becoming the owner of the vehicle and has notified the Director General in writing accordingly; or

(b) another person has been nominated for the purposes of section 3(2); or

(c) there is more than one owner of the vehicle and there is good reason why a person was not nominated under section 3(2); or

(d) there was some other good reason why the application for the transfer of the registration was not made.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(6) The other subsections of this section do not apply if a person to whom a certificate of registration in respect of a vehicle has been issued dies, and in that case the Director General must on an application under section 28A, if any, by the executor or

administrator of the estate of that person endorse on the certificate the transfer of the registration to that executor or administrator.

[Section 29A inserted: No. 39 of 2000 s. 54; amended: No. 8 of 2025 s. 5(4) and 15.]

30. Fees for registration, reductions in, refunds of etc.

(1) Where a certificate of registration has been issued by the Director General without the payment of a fee, or upon the payment of a reduced fee, by reason of specified conditions or of the circumstances applicable to the ownership, location or use of the vehicle, and those conditions are not observed or those circumstances are changed, or the vehicle is put to some other use, then, unless or until the fee that would otherwise have been payable, or the difference between that fee and the reduced fee, has been paid in respect of that vehicle a person who uses that vehicle contravenes the provisions of section 7.

(2) Where a certificate of registration is issued pursuant to the provisions of this Act and the fees paid in respect of that registration are subsequently found to be either in excess of or less than the fees which are properly payable in respect of the registration, the Director General —

(a) shall forthwith upon demand refund the amount of the excess to the person to whom the certificate of registration was issued;

(b) may recover the deficiency in a court of competent jurisdiction from the person to whom the certificate of registration was issued, if that person fails to pay the deficiency to the Director General within 7 days after the amount of the deficiency has been demanded in writing from him.

[Section 30 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27.]

31. Registration obtained by dishonoured cheque is void

(1) Where the fees for the issue or renewal of a certificate of registration are paid by a cheque which is not honoured by the financial institution on which it is drawn, the registration is void as from the time of issue or renewal as the case may be.

(2) The person to whom a certificate of registration is issued in the circumstances referred to in subsection (1) must, on demand made by or on behalf of the Director General forthwith deliver the certificate of registration and the number plate relating to that registration to the Director General.

(3) A person to whom a certificate of registration is so issued must not, after demand so made, —

(a) fail so to deliver the certificate of registration or the number plate; or

(b) use or continue to use, or allow any other person the use of, the certificate of registration or the number plate relating to that registration.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 31 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 24 of 2000 s. 48; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

32. Refund of registration fees

(1) The Director General may refund a fair proportion of the registration fee paid in respect of any vehicle in any circumstances which in the opinion of the Director General render it just and convenient that a refund should be made.

(2) Where a refund of any registration fee, or a proportion thereof, is made under any provision of this Act, the Director General shall charge a prescribed fee for such refund and deduct that fee from the amount to be refunded.

[Section 32 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27.]

32A. Nominated owner of vehicle, cancelling and changing

(1) If a person is the owner of a vehicle as the result of a nomination for the purposes of section 3(2), the person may apply to the Director General, in a form approved by the Director General, to cancel the nomination.

(2) The application is to include a statement, signed by each person who would be an owner if there had been no nomination, to the effect that they agree to another of them being the owner of the vehicle for the purposes of this Act.

(3) If the Director General approves the application and the applicant pays the prescribed fee, if any —

(a) the current nomination ceases to have effect; and

(b) the statement under subsection (2) is to be treated as being a nomination for the purposes of section 3(2); and

(c) the Director General is to vary the registration in accordance with the application by changing the name of the person in whose name the vehicle is registered.

[Section 32A inserted: No. 39 of 2000 s. 55.]

33. Review by SAT of decision on registration

There is a right to apply to the State Administrative Tribunal for a review of a decision —

(a) to refuse a registration, or the renewal or a transfer of a registration, under this Act; or

(b) to suspend a registration.

[Section 33 inserted: No. 55 of 2004 s. 147.]

34. Number plate to be displayed

(1) A person must not drive or use a vehicle registered under this Act, otherwise than on private land by consent, unless the number plate issued in respect of the vehicle is affixed to the vehicle so that it is plainly visible and complies with any prescribed requirement relating thereto.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(2) A person must not drive or use a vehicle licensed under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*, on any land (except in the circumstances prescribed under that Act, on private land by consent, or otherwise with the prior approval of either the Director General under this Act or the Director General under that Act) unless the number plates issued under that Act in respect of the vehicle are affixed to the vehicle in the manner required by that Act and the regulations in force thereunder.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 34 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 7 of 2002 s. 10; No. 8 of 2012 s. 66; No. 8 of 2025 s. 7(2), 14 and 15.]

35. Other offences concerning number plates

A person must not —

(a) wilfully alter or deface any number plate issued under this Act; or

(b) cause or permit a number plate issued under this Act to be affixed to a vehicle other than the vehicle for which that number plate was issued; or

(c) being the person in whose name a vehicle was registered under this Act, but for which the registration has expired and not been renewed for a period exceeding 15 days, fail to deliver up the number plate issued under this Act in respect of the vehicle; or

(d) use on any vehicle a number plate not issued in respect of that vehicle, or any counterfeit or false number plate or any thing apparently intended to resemble or pass for a number plate.

Penalty: a fine of $5 000.

[Section 35 amended: No. 39 of 2000 s. 56; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

36. Road law provisions

In the application of the provisions of a road law as defined in the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008* section 4 to vehicles to which this Act applies or to persons using vehicles in circumstances to which this Act applies —

(a) the obligations set out in section 54(6) and section 56(1) of the *Road Traffic Act 1974* shall be deemed to extend to and in relation to the use of a vehicle otherwise than on a road; and

(b) any reference to a police officer in the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008* section 32, 33, 34 or 48 or the *Road Traffic Act 1974* section 54, 55 or 57 shall be construed as a reference to an authorised person within the meaning of this Act.

[Section 36 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 33; No. 8 of 2012 s. 67; No. 16 of 2019 s. 104.]

*[**36A.** Deleted: No. 76 of 1996 s. 25.]*

37. Infringement notices

(1) Where an authorised person has reason to believe that a person has committed any offence against this Act or any regulation or local law made pursuant to this Act in respect of which a modified penalty is prescribed he may serve on that person an infringement notice in the prescribed form, informing the person that, if he does not wish to be prosecuted for the alleged offence

in a court, he may pay to the office of the local government specified in the notice, within 21 days after the date of the service of the notice, the amount of the modified penalty.

(2) An infringement notice may, in any case, be served on the alleged offender personally or be addressed to and served on a responsible person for the vehicle within 30 days after the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

(3) Where, under the provisions of subsection (2), an infringement notice is addressed to and served on a responsible person for a vehicle within the time specified in that subsection or addressed to the responsible person and served by attaching it to the vehicle or leaving it in or on the vehicle, then, unless within 21 days after the date of the service of the infringement notice —

(a) the modified penalty is paid; or

(b) the responsible person —

(i) informs the chief executive officer of the local government or such other person as may be specified in that notice as to the identity and address of the person who was the driver or person in charge of the vehicle at the time the offence is alleged to have been committed; or

(ii) satisfies the chief executive officer of the local government that the vehicle had been stolen or unlawfully taken, or was being unlawfully used, at the time the offence is alleged to have been committed,

the responsible person is, in the absence of proof to the contrary, deemed to have been the driver or person in charge of the vehicle at the time of the alleged offence.

(4) A person who receives an infringement notice may decline to be dealt with under the provisions of this section and, where he fails to pay the prescribed modified penalty within the period of

21 days after the date of service of the notice or within such further time as may, in any particular case, be allowed, he is deemed to have declined to be dealt with under those provisions.

(5) An infringement notice may, whether or not the modified penalty has been paid, be withdrawn at any time within 28 days after the service of the notice, by the sending of a notice, in the prescribed form, signed by a person authorised by the local government, to the alleged offender advising the alleged offender that the infringement notice has been withdrawn, and, in that event, the amount of any modified penalty that has been paid must be refunded.

(5a) In subsection (5) —

alleged offender, in relation to an infringement notice addressed to and served on a responsible person under subsection (3), means the responsible person.

(6) Where a modified penalty has been paid pursuant to an infringement notice and the notice has not been withdrawn as provided by subsection (5), proceedings must not be brought against any person with respect to the offence alleged in the notice.

(7) The payment of a modified penalty pursuant to an infringement notice constitutes a conviction of an offence, but must not be regarded as an admission of liability for the purpose of, nor in any way affect or prejudice, any civil claim, action or proceeding arising out of the occurrence by reason of which the infringement notice was given.

(8) A person, other than an owner of, a responsible person for, a driver of, or a person in charge of a vehicle in respect of which an offence is alleged to have been committed, must not remove any infringement notice relating to the offence affixed to the vehicle or left in or on the vehicle by an authorised person.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(9) An infringement notice served under subsection (2) must include a short statement of the effect of subsection (3).

(10) Regulations or local laws made under this Act may make provision in respect of the issue and use of infringement notices and may prescribe modified penalties for any contravention specified therein and may prescribe differing penalties for the same offence according to the circumstances by which the offence is attended.

(11) The amount of a modified penalty prescribed under subsection (10) for an offence must not exceed 10% of the penalty specified for the offence by this Act or a regulation or local law made under this Act.

[Section 37 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 39 of 2000 s. 57; No. 84 of 2004 s. 80; No. 16 of 2019 s. 104; No. 8 of 2025 s. 9, 14 and 15.]

38. Authorised persons

(1) For the purposes of this Act an authorised person is —

(a) any member of the Police Force;

(b) any person appointed as such under subsection (2) within the area of jurisdiction entrusted to him by the appointment;

(c) any person appointed as such under subsection (3) within the area of jurisdiction entrusted to him by the appointment.

(2) The Minister may appoint any person who is or acts in the office of —

(a) an inspector, under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*; or

(b) a conservation and land management officer, forest officer, wildlife officer or ranger, under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*; or

[(c), (d) deleted]

(e) an honorary warden, under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*; or

(f) an inspector or honorary warden, under the *Waterways Conservation Act 1976*; or

(g) a fisheries officer referred to in the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*; or

(ga) a person who is authorised by the CEO under the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008* section 22 to perform a function that can be performed by a warden; or

(h) a prescribed officer of a public authority,

to be an authorised person for the purposes of this Act either in respect of the whole of the State or any part thereof defined in the appointment.

(3) A person is appointed as an authorised person under this subsection if the person is appointed under the *Local Government Act 1995* section 9.10(2) to be an authorised person for the purposes of this Act either in respect of the whole of a district or any part of a district specified in the appointment.

(4) A person who is appointed as an authorised person under subsection (2) or (3) —

(a) has within the area of jurisdiction entrusted to him by the appointment the duties and powers of an authorised person under this Act, and may exercise such powers within that area; and

(b) may exercise the powers conferred upon him by this Act in relation to any person or vehicle which he has reason to believe is concerned in a contravention of this Act notwithstanding that such person or vehicle is not then within the area of jurisdiction entrusted to him if that person or vehicle was pursued from that area or is known to have been in that area at the time of the contravention; and

(c) may, for the purposes of this Act in the course of his duty, enter on any land or, using only such force as is necessary, may enter a vehicle for the purpose of removing it; and

(d) must be issued with a certificate of his appointment as an authorised person in the prescribed form, evidencing the area of jurisdiction entrusted to him under this Act, which he must, on reasonable demand, produce for inspection by any person.

(4A) Subsection (4)(d) does not apply in the case of a person appointed as an authorised person under subsection (3).

(5) The Minister may appoint any person to be an honorary inspector under this Act, and a person so appointed has within the area of jurisdiction entrusted to him by the appointment the powers conferred on an honorary inspector by this Act, including the power to issue infringement notices, and the duty to report to the local government contraventions of this Act, and any such person must be issued with a certificate of his appointment in the prescribed form and must, on reasonable demand, produce that certificate for inspection.

(6) A person must not wilfully obstruct any authorised person or an honorary inspector acting in the execution of this Act.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(7) Where an authorised person or an honorary inspector has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has contravened or that a vehicle contravenes, or was used or driven in contravention of, the provisions of this Act, the authorised person or inspector may stop that person or vehicle and may request that person to furnish his name and address to the authorised person or inspector or to produce any license, registration, permit or exemption relating to the vehicle in his possession, and to give full information as to the ownership, use, construction and equipment of that vehicle and where such a person fails or refuses to do so, or furnishes a name or address

or other information that the authorised person or inspector reasonably believes to be false, he must be treated as having wilfully obstructed the authorised person or inspector for the purposes of subsection (6).

(8) An authorised person may require any person to permit him to examine and test drive a vehicle in the possession of that person and may require that person to unlock or open any such vehicle and to deliver any key relating thereto, and where he has reason to believe that any vehicle is so constructed or in such condition that it is likely to occasion danger to any person or damage to property or otherwise does not comply with the prescribed requirements for vehicles registered under this Act he may attach to the vehicle a notice, in a prescribed form, prohibiting the use of that vehicle, except for the purpose of presenting it for inspection and such other purposes as may be specified in that notice, either forthwith or on or after a date specified in the notice, until —

(a) the defects specified in the notice have been remedied or the requirements specified in the notice have been met; and

(b) the vehicle has been presented for further inspection at a place designated by the Director General and the notice has been removed by or on behalf of the Director General after an inspection of the vehicle has been made.

(9) Where an authorised person under subsection (8) orders a driver to discontinue using a vehicle for which the driver is not a responsible person the driver must bring the notice to the attention of a responsible person.

(10) A person who uses a vehicle in respect of which a notice under subsection (8) is in force otherwise than for a purpose specified in that notice or for the purpose of presenting the vehicle to the Director General for inspection by or on behalf of the Director General, or who wilfully removes, damages or

obliterates any such notice attached to a vehicle, commits an offence.

Penalty for this subsection: a fine of $5 000.

(11) An authorised person may without warrant stop, seize and detain any vehicle which he has reason to believe contravenes, or was used or driven in contravention of the provisions of this Act if —

(a) the vehicle appears to him to be neither licensed under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*, nor registered under this Act; and

(b) the identity of a responsible person for, or a driver of, the vehicle can not be established to the satisfaction of that authorised person,

and may cause the vehicle to be conveyed to a place of safe custody until such time as it may be dealt with according to law.

(12) Any member of the Police Force may without warrant stop, seize and detain —

(a) any off-road vehicle; or

(b) any vehicle licensed under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*, when in use otherwise than on a road or private land by consent,

if the vehicle is in his opinion so constructed or in such condition that it is likely to occasion danger to any person or damage to any property, and may cause the vehicle to be conveyed to a place of safe custody until such time as it may be dealt with according to law.

(13) No authorised person or other person acting in the performance of his duties is liable for anything done or seizure made under this Act for which there is reasonable cause, nor in respect of any loss or damage, however arising, during any period in which a vehicle is detained under this Act.

(14) Regulations made under this Act may make provision in respect of the removal and detention of vehicles pursuant to this Act, and for the custody, disposal or sale of such vehicles, and in respect of recouping the costs of the removal, custody, and disposal or sale whether by deduction from the proceeds of sale or by recovery from a responsible person in a court of competent jurisdiction, and for the payment or appropriation of the proceeds of any such sale or other moneys relating thereto.

(15) If a vehicle is seized under subsection (11), it may be detained until the authorised person is satisfied —

(a) that it is licensed under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012* or registered under this Act; or

(b) as to the identity of the owner or driver,

or until an order is made under section 42, whichever happens first.

(16) A person claiming to be a responsible person for a vehicle seized under subsection (11) or (12) may apply to the Magistrates Court for an order that the vehicle be delivered to him.

(17) A vehicle detained —

(a) under subsection (11) or (12) by a member of the Police Force; or

(b) under subsection (11) by an authorised person appointed under subsection (2),

is to be taken to be detained in the name of the Director General.

(18) A vehicle detained under subsection (11) by an authorised person appointed under subsection (3) is taken to be detained by the local government concerned.

[Section 38 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 24 of 1995 s. 53; No. 53 of 1994 s. 264; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 76 of 1996 s. 26 and 27; No. 39 of 2000 s. 58 and 59; No. 59 of 2004 s. 141; No. 28 of 2006 s. 359; No. 8 of 2012 s. 68; No. 16

of 2019 s. 102 and 104; No. 27 of 2021 s. 345(2); No. 23 of 2023 s. 26; No. 8 of 2025 s. 14 and 15.]

39. Evidentiary provisions for prosecutions

(1) In any proceedings for an offence against this Act —

(a) an averment in the prosecution notice that —

(i) any place at which a vehicle is alleged to have been driven or used is, or is not, as the averment may specify, within a permitted area or within a prohibited area; or

(ii) a vehicle was not licensed under the *Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012*; or

(iii) a vehicle was not registered under this Act,

shall be deemed to be proved in the absence of proof to the contrary; and

(b) the onus of proving that —

(i) any place at which a vehicle was driven or used is situate on private land, or is within a permitted area; or

(ii) any vehicle was being used in circumstances where the provisions of this Act do not apply, or pursuant to and in accordance with any restrictions, limitations or conditions applicable to a permit or exemption granted under this Act,

is on the person alleging that to be the case; and

(c) the averment on the process that an employee of a local government is authorised to take the proceedings shall be sufficient proof of that fact and of his appointment as such an employee unless the contrary is shown.

(2) Where by way of defence to any prosecution for an offence under this Act it is alleged that any vehicle was driven or used or was intended to be driven or used on private land by consent

that defence shall not be taken to have been established unless —

(a) it is shown that the land in question was —

(i) land (not being land comprised in a reserve under Part 4 of the *Land Administration Act 1997*, whether or not vested in or leased to any person or body under that Act) which is alienated from the Crown for any estate or interest; or

(ii) land the subject of any conditional purchase agreement or of any lease from the Crown; or

(iii) land comprised in a reserve under any Act and leased for any purpose; or

(iv) other land, in respect of which a right of occupation or use is held by any person or body not being a right conferred principally for mining purposes,

and that the vehicle was driven or used in that place at the material time with the specific prior consent of a lawful occupier or the owner of that land; or

(b) the Court is otherwise satisfied that the vehicle was lawfully in a place the property or use of which is vested in a person or body who or which consented to the vehicle being there, not being land of the kind referred to in paragraph (a).

[Section 39 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 31 of 1997 s. 17; No. 84 of 2004 s. 80; No. 8 of 2012 s. 69.]

40. Prosecutions, who may commence

All proceedings for offences under this Act may be instituted by any person aggrieved, or by any employee of a local government or other authorised person.

[Section 40 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 59 of 2004 s. 141; No. 16 of 2019 s. 104.]

*[**41.** Deleted: No. 8 of 2025 s. 10.]*

42. Detention of vehicles, court may order

(1) Where the Court finds that any vehicle is so constructed or in such condition that it is likely to occasion danger to any person or damage to property or that any vehicle has been used in the commission of an offence against this Act the Court may order that the vehicle shall be detained by or on behalf of the Director General or a local government —

(a) for a period not exceeding 12 months; or

(b) until the Director General is satisfied that arrangements have been made that will ensure that the construction or condition of the vehicle will be so changed as to eliminate the source of danger,

but where it appears to the Court that some person is lawfully entitled to possession and is not guilty of an offence in relation thereto the Court may order the vehicle to be delivered to that person.

(2) Where any vehicle is detained by or on behalf of the Director General or a local government pursuant to this Act and —

(a) a responsible person cannot be found after reasonable inquiry; or

(b) a responsible person dies, and after reasonable inquiry no other person appears to the Director General or that local government to be lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle; or

(c) the vehicle is not recovered from the custody of the Director General or that local government within a prescribed period,

then, after the expiry of the period of detention relating thereto, the Director General or that local government may dispose of or

sell that vehicle and apply the proceeds of that disposal or sale in accordance with regulations made under this Act.

[Section 42 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 39 of 2000 s. 59; No. 59 of 2004 s. 141.]

43. Expenses of this Act, appropriation of penalties etc.

(1) The expenses of the Minister in connection with the administration of this Act shall be paid out of moneys from time to time appropriated by Parliament for that purpose.

(2) The expenses of the Director General in connection with the administration of this Act shall be paid in so far as is practicable out of moneys derived from the administration of the scheme of registration effected by this Act, and in so far as such moneys shall not be sufficient for that purpose out of moneys from time to time appropriated by Parliament for that purpose.

(3) Subject to subsection (2), moneys derived by the Director General pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall be credited to an account to be established as an agency special purpose account under the *Financial Management Act 2006* section 16 and called the "Off-Road Vehicles Account" which shall be dealt with in such manner as the Minister, with approval of the Treasurer, may direct.

[Section 43 amended: No. 106 of 1981 s. 34; No. 78 of 1995 s. 17; No. 49 of 1996 s. 64; No. 76 of 1996 s. 27; No. 7 of 2002 s. 11(1); No. 77 of 2006 Sch. 1 cl. 34.]

44. Regulations that operate as local laws, Governor may make

(1) The Governor may make regulations that are to operate as if they were local laws for each district to which they apply.

(2) Regulations made under this section may deal with any matter in respect of which local laws may be made under this Act.

(3) Regulations under this section, other than those that only repeal or amend other regulations, are to contain a statement to the effect that they apply as if they were local laws.

(4) A local government is to administer any regulation made under this section to the extent that it relates to any place where the local government may perform functions, as if the regulation was a local law.

(5) If there is any inconsistency between a regulation made under this section and a local law, the regulation prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

[Section 44 inserted: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

45. Local laws, local government may make

A local government may make local laws —

(a) for its district and any other area that is to be regarded, for the purposes of this Act, as being within that district; and

(b) in accordance with subdivision 2 of Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 1995*; and

(c) for the purposes permitted by this Act.

[Section 45 inserted: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

45A. Model local laws, Governor may make

(1) The Governor may cause to be prepared and published in the *Gazette* model local laws the provisions of which a local law made under this Act may adopt by reference, with or without modification.

(2) Model local laws have no effect except to the extent that they are adopted.

(3) The Governor may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, amend a model local law published under this section.

(4) An amendment to a model local law does not affect any local law that adopted the model local law before the amendment but the amendment may be adopted by a further local law.

[Section 45A inserted: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

45B. Local laws, Governor may amend or repeal

(1) The Governor may make a local law to amend the text of, or repeal, a local law.

(2) Subsection (1) does not include the power to amend a local law to include in it a provision that bears no reasonable relationship to the local law as in force before the amendment.

(3) The Minister is to give a local government notice in writing of any local law that the Governor makes to amend the text of, or repeal, any of the local government's local laws.

(4) A local law made under this section is to be taken, for all purposes, to be a local law made by the local government which made the local law that is amended or repealed.

(5) Section 3.17 of the *Local Government Act 1995* does not apply in relation to local laws made under this Act.

[Section 45B inserted: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

46. Regulations and local laws, general

(1) Any regulation made under section 44 or local law made under this Act may be so made —

(a) as to apply generally or in a particular class of case, or particular classes of cases, at all times or at a specified time or specified times, throughout the district or in a specified part or specified parts of the district and in areas which although not within the district are by the operation of the provisions of this Act nevertheless to be regarded as being within the district; and

(b) as to require a matter affected by it to be in accordance with a specified requirement, or as approved by, or to the satisfaction of, a specified person or body, or class of person or body, and so as to delegate to or confer upon a specified body a discretionary authority; and

(c) as to provide that in specified cases, or a specified class of case, or specified classes of cases, whether on specified conditions or unconditionally, persons or things may be exempted from its provisions either wholly or to such extent as is specified.

(2) Any regulation made under section 44 or local law may make provision for the imposition of penalties not exceeding $500 in respect of any contravention.

(3) Where in relation to a regulation made under section 44 or local law made under this Act the expression ***specified*** is used, the expression, unless the context requires otherwise, means specified in that regulation or local law.

[Section 46 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 8 of 2025 s. 11.]

47. Local laws and local planning schemes, Governor may revoke or amend

(1) Where any local law has been or is made by a local government under this Act or the *Local Government Act 1995*, or any local planning scheme has been or is made under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, or the Swan Valley Planning Scheme has been or is made under the *Swan Valley Planning Act 2020*, and that local law or scheme, or any provision of such a local law or scheme, is in the opinion of the Governor repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act the Governor may by notice published in the *Government Gazette* revoke or amend that local law or scheme, or the relevant provision thereof, in so far as it is so repugnant or inconsistent and effect shall be given to any such revocation or amendment but without affecting the validity, or curing the invalidity, of any thing done, or of the omission of any thing, in the meantime.

(2) The Minister shall cause a copy of any notice published under this section to be laid before each House of Parliament within 6 sitting days of that House next following the publication, and if either House of Parliament passes a resolution of which notice has been given within the first 14 sitting days of that House after the copy of a notice under this section has been laid before that House that the notice be disallowed, the notice thereupon ceases to have effect, but the disallowance of the notice does not affect or invalidate anything done in good faith before the passing of the resolution.

[Section 47 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 38 of 2005 s. 15; No. 45 of 2020 s. 98.]

48. Regulations

(1) The Governor may make regulations for or with respect to any matter or thing which is required or permitted for the proper administration of this Act or for achieving the objects and purposes of this Act.

(2) The regulations may prescribe penalties not exceeding a fine of $500 in respect of a breach of any of the regulations.

(3) The regulations may require that any information or form required to be given or furnished thereunder must be verified by statutory declaration.

(4) Where and to the extent that there is inconsistency between any regulation made under this Act and any local law made under this Act, the provisions of the regulation prevail.

[Section 48 amended: No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 8 of 2025 s. 12 and 15.]

49. Transitional provision for *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019*

(1) This section applies to a person who, immediately before the day on which the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019* section 102 comes into operation, was a person appointed under section 38(3).

(2) The person is taken to be an authorised person appointed under the *Local Government Act 1995* section 9.10(2) for the purposes of this Act on the terms and conditions that were applicable to the person's appointment under section 38(3) immediately before the day referred to in subsection (1).

[Section 49 inserted: No. 16 of 2019 s. 103.]

Notes

This is a compilation of the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* and includes amendments made by other written laws. For provisions that have come into operation, and for information about any reprints, see the compilation table. For provisions that have not yet come into operation see the uncommenced provisions table.

Compilation table

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978	117 of 1978	12 Dec 1978	Act other than s. 11: 5 Oct 1979 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 5 Oct 1979 p. 3079)
Acts Amendment (Traffic Board) Act 1981 Pt. VII	106 of 1981	4 Dec 1981	2 Feb 1982 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 2 Feb 1982 p. 393)
Acts Amendment and Repeal (Credit) Act 1984 Pt. III	102 of 1984	19 Dec 1984	31 Mar 1985 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 8 Mar 1985 p. 867)
Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 1985	12 of 1985	12 Apr 1985	s. 1 and 2: 12 Apr 1985; Act other than s. 1 and 2: 1 Dec 1985 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 1 Nov 1985 p. 4189)
Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 1986	56 of 1986	26 Nov 1986	s. 1 and 2: 26 Nov 1986; Act other than s. 1 and 2: 15 May 1987 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 15 May 1987 p. 2119)
Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 s. 123	24 of 1990	7 Sep 1990	20 Oct 1992 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 2 Oct 1992 p. 4811)
Acts Amendment (Public Sector Management) Act 1994 s. 3(1)	32 of 1994	29 Jun 1994	1 Oct 1994 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 30 Sep 1994 p. 4948)
Fish Resources Management Act 1994 s. 264	53 of 1994	2 Nov 1994	1 Oct 1995 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 29 Sep 1995 p. 4649)
Planning Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1994 s. 46(6)	84 of 1994	13 Jan 1995	1 Mar 1995 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 21 Feb 1995 p. 567)

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Act 1995 s. 53	24 of 1995	30 Jun 1995	1 Jul 1995 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 30 Jun 1995 p. 2781)
Sentencing (Consequential Provisions) Act 1995 Pt. 14	78 of 1995	16 Jan 1996	4 Nov 1996 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 25 Oct 1996 p. 5632)
Local Government (Consequential Amendments) Act 1996 s. 4	14 of 1996	28 Jun 1996	1 Jul 1996 (see s. 2)
Consumer Credit (Western Australia) Act 1996 s. 13	30 of 1996	10 Sep 1996	1 Nov 1996 (see s. 2)
Financial Legislation Amendment Act 1996 s. 64	49 of 1996	25 Oct 1996	25 Oct 1996 (see s. 2(1))
Road Traffic Amendment Act 1996 Pt. 3 Div. 2	76 of 1996	14 Nov 1996	1 Feb 1997 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 31 Jan 1997 p. 613)
Acts Amendment (Land Administration) Act 1997 Pt. 15	31 of 1997	3 Oct 1997	30 Mar 1998 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 27 Mar 1998 p. 1765)
Reprint of the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* as at 5 Mar 1999 (includes amendments listed above) (correction to reprint in *Gazette* 18 May 1999 p. 1965)			
Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Act 2000 s. 48	24 of 2000	4 Jul 2000	4 Jul 2000 (see s. 2)
Road Traffic Amendment Act 2000 Pt. 3 Div. 1	39 of 2000	10 Oct 2000	1 Jan 2006 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 23 Dec 2005 p. 6244-5)
Road Traffic Amendment (Vehicle Licensing) Act 2001 Pt. 3 Div. 2	28 of 2001	21 Dec 2001	4 Dec 2006 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 28 Nov 2006 p. 4889)
Machinery of Government (Planning and Infrastructure) Amendment Act 2002 Pt. 2 [1]	7 of 2002	19 Jun 2002	1 Jul 2002 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 28 Jun 2002 p. 3037)

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
Reprint of the *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* as at 2 Aug 2002 (includes amendments listed above except those in the *Road Traffic Amendment Act 2000* and the *Road Traffic Amendment (Vehicle Licensing) Act 2001*)			
Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2003 s. 142	54 of 2003	20 Oct 2003	19 Nov 2003 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 18 Nov 2003 p. 4723)
Local Government Amendment Act 2004 s. 13	49 of 2004	12 Nov 2004	1 Apr 2005 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 31 Mar 2005 p. 1029)
Courts Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2004 s. 141 [2]	59 of 2004 (as amended by No. 2 of 2008 s. 77(13))	23 Nov 2004	1 May 2005 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 31 Dec 2004 p. 7128)
State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004 Pt. 2 Div. 26 [3]	55 of 2004	24 Nov 2004	1 Jan 2005 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 31 Dec 2004 p. 7130)
Criminal Procedure and Appeals (Consequential and Other Provisions) Act 2004 s. 80	84 of 2004	16 Dec 2004	2 May 2005 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 31 Dec 2004 p. 7129 (correction in *Gazette* 7 Jan 2005 p. 53))
Planning and Development (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2005 s. 15	38 of 2005	12 Dec 2005	9 Apr 2006 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 21 Mar 2006 p. 1078)
Reprint 3: The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* as at 17 Feb 2006 (includes amendments listed above except those in the *Road Traffic Amendment (Vehicle Licensing) Act 2001* and the *Planning and Development (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2005*)			
Machinery of Government (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2006 Pt. 12 Div. 2	28 of 2006	26 Jun 2006	1 Jul 2006 (see s. 2 and *Gazette* 27 Jun 2006 p. 2347)
Land Information Authority Act 2006 s. 128	60 of 2006	16 Nov 2006	1 Jan 2007 (see s. 2(1) and *Gazette* 8 Dec 2006 p. 5369)

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
Financial Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2006 Sch. 1 cl. 34	77 of 2006	21 Dec 2006	1 Feb 2007 (see s. 2(1) and *Gazette* 19 Jan 2007 p. 137)
Reprint 4: The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* as at 20 Feb 2009 (includes amendments listed above)			
Statutes (Repeals and Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2009 s. 40	8 of 2009	21 May 2009	22 May 2009 (see s. 2(b))
Acts Amendment (Bankruptcy) Act 2009 s. 22	18 of 2009	16 Sep 2009	17 Sep 2009 (see s. 2(b))
Approvals and Related Reforms (No. 4) (Planning) Act 2010 s. 29	28 of 2010	19 Aug 2010	22 Nov 2010 (see s. 2(b) and *Gazette* 19 Nov 2010 p. 5709)
Road Traffic Legislation Amendment Act 2012 Pt. 4 Div. 10	8 of 2012	21 May 2012	27 Apr 2015 (see s. 2(d) and *Gazette* 17 Apr 2015 p. 1371)
Reprint 5: The *Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978* as at 7 Sep 2012 (includes amendments listed above except those in the *Road Traffic Legislation Amendment Act 2012* Pt. 4 Div. 10)			
Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019 Pt. 4 Div. 4	16 of 2019	5 Jul 2019	7 Nov 2020 (see s. 2(b) and SL 2020/212 cl. 2)
Swan Valley Planning Act 2020 Pt. 10 Div. 1	45 of 2020	9 Dec 2020	1 Aug 2021 (see s. 2(1)(e) and SL 2021/124 cl. 2)
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 s. 345	27 of 2021	22 Dec 2021	1 Jul 2023 (see s. 2(e) and SL 2023/40 cl. 2(b))
Aboriginal Heritage Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2023 s. 26	23 of 2023	24 Oct 2023	15 Nov 2023 (see s. 2(d) and SL 2023/161 cl. 2)
Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 2025 (other than s. 4, 5(1)-(3), 6, 7(1), 8 and 13)	8 of 2025	22 Aug 2025	s. 1 and 2: 22 Aug 2025 (see s. 2(a)); s. 3, 5(4), 7(2), 9-12, 14 and 15: 23 Aug 2025 (see s. 2(b))

Uncommenced provisions table

To view the text of the uncommenced provisions see *Acts as passed* on the WA legislation website.

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978 s. 11	117 of 1978 (as amended by No. 7 of 2002 s. 7 and No. 8 of 2012 s. 65)	12 Dec 1978	To be proclaimed (see s. 2)
Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 s. 365	53 of 2016	29 Nov 2016	To be proclaimed (see s. 2(b))
Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Amendment Act 2025 s. 4, 5(1)-(3), 6, 7(1), 8 and 13	8 of 2025	22 Aug 2025	28 Jun 2026 (see s. 2(c) and SL 2026/99 cl. 2)
Evidence Act 2025 Pt. 12 Div. 8	15 of 2025	25 Sep 2025	To be proclaimed (see s. 2(e))

Other notes

[1] The *Machinery of Government (Planning and Infrastructure) Amendment Act 2002* s. 11(2) and (3) are transitional provisions that are of no further effect.

[2] The *Courts Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* Sch. 2 cl. 12 was repealed by the *Criminal Law and Evidence Amendment Act 2008* s. 77(13).

[3] The *State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* Pt. 5, the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* s. 167 and 169, and the *State Administrative Tribunal Regulations 2004* r. 28 and 42 deal with certain transitional issues some of which may be relevant for this Act.

Defined terms

[This is a list of terms defined and the provisions where they are defined. The list is not part of the law.]

Defined term	Provision(s)
alleged offender	37(5a)
authorised person	3(1)
certificate	3(1)
certificate of registration	3(1)
Committee	3(1)
Department	3(1)
Director General	3(1)
district	3(1)
drive	3(1)
driver	3(1)
infringement notice	3(1)
motor car	3(1)
motor cycle	3(1)
new owner	29A(4)
off-road vehicle	3(1)
owner	3(1)
permitted area	3(1)
private land	3(1)
prohibited area	3(1)
public authority	3(1)
responsible person	3(1)
road	3(1)
seat belt	3(1)
seat position	3(1)
vehicle	3(1)

© State of Western Australia 2025.
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (CC BY 4.0).
To view relevant information and for a link to a copy of the licence, visit www.legislation.wa.gov.au.
Attribute work as: © State of Western Australia 2025.

By Authority: ANDREW JONES, Government Printer