

NSW Legislation: Paper Reprints Policy

Background

- 1 This document replaces the NSW Legislation Reprinting Policy formulated by the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) in 1991 when the only mechanism for providing public access to updated legislation was the production of paper reprints or consolidations.
- 2 The purpose of the 1991 policy was to establish an orderly framework for reprinting NSW legislation to provide the best possible range of high quality up-to-date legislation to all stakeholders on an efficient and cost-effective basis. However, the advent of online legislation in the mid 1990s and the commissioning of the NSW Government's legislation website <www.legislation.nsw.gov.au> in 2002 have made a major impact on the traditional paper publication of all legislation, including reprints. The authorisation of online content on the NSW website in October 2008 is expected to have a further impact on paper publication. It is axiomatic that periodic, point-in-time paper versions of selected items of legislation are archaic, costly and inefficient when compared with constantly updated, high quality, online versions of all items of legislation.

Objectives

- 3 The current policy is intended to underpin the existing paper reprints program although recognising that this is of diminishing utility as the majority of users of legislation rely solely upon the online products and with the authorisation of the online products a formal paper reprints program will eventually cease.
- 4 The key objective is to constantly monitor the paper reprints program in order to gauge its viability in view of the diminishing number of subscribers and the increasing use of free, up-to-date authorised online versions of legislation. This objective involves the following considerations:
 - production costs, including traditional printing and distribution costs
 - changing customer requirements
 - changing technology and legislative policy in the fields of electronic publishing and disseminating information.
- 5 A further objective is to maintain close links with the Department of Commerce, which has the role of printing and distributing paper reprints and key user groups and counterpart agencies in other jurisdictions. This is to ensure that the PCO's paper products continue to be relevant, as well as of the highest standard, efficiently and effectively marketed, bulk printed and distributed.

Restraints and variables

- 6 Any paper reprints policy is, of necessity, subject to a range of restraints and variables, particularly the changing technology and attitudes to paper and online products. Other considerations include:
 - volume of new legislation enacted
 - amount and frequency of amending legislation enacted
 - usefulness of particular legislation to judicial officers, the legal profession, Government departments and the public generally

- physical capacity of the PCO to process paper reprints (human and technological resources)
- size and nature of the market
- limits imposed by the price the market will pay for reprinted legislation
- Government policy.

Methods for determining reprinting priorities

- 7** The methods used to select titles for reprinting have been developed over many years. There are 700 General Acts, containing 27,000 pages, and 450 principal statutory instruments, containing 8,000 pages, that are considered to be of practical utility and could therefore warrant reprinting. (These figures are approximations as the statute book is constantly changing.)
- 8** The staged repeal of statutory instruments under the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989* resulted in the scaling down of that part of the paper reprints program. Possibly only up to 30 heavily amended and sought after titles are expected to be targeted for reprinting each year.
- 9** The PCO, with the assistance of the Department of Commerce and customer feedback, monitors what are considered to be the bestselling Acts and statutory instruments. These titles tend to be the largest in volume and most frequently amended, often warranting a new reprint each year or second year. The statutory instruments concerned also include rules of court.
- 10** Since 1997, a list of Acts and statutory instruments proposed for reprinting during the year has been issued to subscribers and updated periodically. Since 1998, this production list has been published on the PCO's corporate website <www.pco.nsw.gov.au>. The production list is reviewed quarterly.
- 11** The production list is kept under constant review in order to reflect:
- customer requirements and feedback
 - volume of sales by the Department of Commerce and feedback from that organisation
 - number and frequency of amendments
 - staged repeal of statutory instruments described above
 - perceptions of the Parliamentary Counsel
 - requests from Government departments or agencies
 - other relevant criteria.

Volume and range of reprints

- 12** The volume of paper reprints produced by the PCO will depend on the restraints and variables listed in paragraph 6. Although the program is intended to keep the widest possible segment of the statute book up-to-date, caution is exercised in reprinting titles that are significantly amended but of little interest to users or subscribers and voluminous titles that have only very minor amendments. Also, the number of special interest titles and those titles of interest only to the public sector rather than the wider community will be reviewed periodically to ensure that these are kept to a minimum (although it is sometimes difficult to categorise Acts and statutory instruments in that way). As described in paragraph 2, it is particularly important to note that from 2002 Acts and statutory instruments can be readily accessed in an up-to-date form free online from <www.legislation.nsw.gov.au> and these have been authorised since 2008. This has inevitably reduced the need to formally reprint special interest titles.

- 13** Since 1992, an annual target of 10,000 pages has been set, within a range of 8,000 to 12,000 pages and this has been met every year.

Information publications: “Legislation in Force” and Email Service

- 14** The PCO’s printed information publications are currently linked with the paper reprints. The *Legislation in Force* guide, published quarterly in hard copy but updated monthly on the NSW legislation website <www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>, includes the current reprint date and lists any subsequent amendments. The weekly email service introduced in 1999 provides a free email service to subscribers that lists all legislative activity for the week. This includes details of Bills introduced, Acts passed, Regulations and other instruments notified on the legislation website or gazetted, and paper reprints certified. The weekly email service is available from the legislation website.

Indexes

- 15** In NSW, indexes are not generally part of the paper reprints program. The cost of maintaining indexes is high and electronic publishing and searching have considerably reduced the need for them.

Future monitoring

- 16** The PCO will continue, with the assistance of the Department of Commerce and other agencies and customer feedback, to monitor and research the nature and usage of the paper reprints program. Close contact will be maintained with counterpart agencies in other jurisdictions so that technological and editorial improvements can be exchanged. In particular, the impact of the online legislation on hard copy prints will continue to be kept under review.

First Issued 3 March 2005

Revised 28 January 2009

2009 Proposed Reprints Program

(as at 13 November 2009)

The following list contains Acts and statutory instruments recently reprinted or proposed for reprinting during the Calendar Year 2009.

This is a working list and will be updated periodically. An asterisk next to an Act or statutory instrument indicates that the reprint is now available from Salmat PrintZoo. For more information about the Reprints Program, please contact the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (02) 9321 3333.

Acts

Administrative Decisions Tribunal Act 1997 No 76*
Adoption Act 2000 No 75
Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 No 48*
Building Professionals Act 2005 No 115
Casino Control Act 1992 No 15*
Child Protection (International Measures) Act 2006 No 12*
Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 No 42*
Children (Community Service Orders) Act 1987 No 56*
Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987 No 55*
Children (Interstate Transfer of Offenders) Act 1988 No 85*
Children's Court Act 1987 No 53*
Civil Liability Act 2002 No 22*
Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Enforcement Act 1995 No 63*
Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 No 70*
Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000 No 77*
Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 No 140*
Conversion of Cemeteries Act 1974 No 17*
Conveyancing Act 1919 No 6*
Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 No 93*
Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007 No 80*
Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 No 92*
Crown Advocate Act 1979 No 59*
Dividing Fences Act 1991 No 72*
Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act 2004 No 4*
Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987 No 103*
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No 203
Evidence Act 1995 No 25*
Evidence (Audio and Audio Visual Links) Act 1998 No 105
Explosives Act 2003 No 39*
Fines Act 1996 No 99
First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 No 21*
First State Superannuation Act 1992 No 100*
Gaming Machine Tax Act 2001 No 72*
Gaming Machines Act 2001 No 127*
Gas Supply Act 1996 No 38
Gene Technology (GM Crop Moratorium) Act 2003 No 12*

Health Services Act 1997 No 154
Higher Education Act 2001 No 102*
Housing Act 2001 No 52*
Human Tissue Act 1983 No 164*
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992 No 39*
Institute of Teachers Act 2004 No 65*
Interpretation Act 1987 No 15*
Justices of the Peace Act 2002 No 27*
Land and Environment Court Act 1979 No 204*
Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 No 22*
Land Tax Act 1956 No 27*
Land Tax Management Act 1956 No 26*
Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 No 103*
Liquor Act 2007 No 90
Marine Parks Act 1997 No 64*
Marine Safety 1998 No 121
Mental Health Act 2007 No 8*
Mine Health and Safety Act 2004 No 74*
Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990 No 10*
Mining Act 1992 No 29
Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999 No 41*
Native Title (New South Wales) Act 1994 No 45*
Native Vegetation Act 2003 No 103
New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry Act 1964 No 44
Non-Indigenous Animals Act 1987 No 166
Passenger Transport Act 1990 No 39*
Petroleum (Offshore) Act 1982 No 23
Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 No 31*
Police Act 1990 No 47*
Police Integrity Commission Act 1996 No 28*
Police Regulation (Superannuation) Act 1906 No 28*
Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995 No 13*
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 No 200*
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 No 156*
Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 No 152*
Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002 No 43*
Racing Administration Act 1998 No 114*
Restricted Premises Act 1943 No 6*
Retirement Villages Act 1999 No 81
Rice Marketing Act 1983 No 176*
Road Transport (General) Act 2005 No 11
Rural Lands Protection Act 1998 No 143*
State Authorities Non-contributory Superannuation 1987 No 212*
State Authorities Superannuation 1987 No 211*
Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Act 1975 (1976 No 4)
Strata Schemes Management Act 1996 No 138*

Succession Act 2006 No 80
Summary Offences Act 1988 No 25
Superannuation Act 1916 No 28*
Teacher Housing Authority Act 1975 No 27*
Telecommunications (Interception and Access) (New South Wales) Act 1987 No 290*
Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996 No 37*
Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 No 101
Totalizator Act 1997 No 45
Totalizator Agency Board Privatisation Act 1997 No 43*
Transport Administration Act 1988 No 109*
Trustee Act 1925 No 14*
Water Management Act 2000 No 92*
Weapons Prohibition Act 1998 No 127*
Western Lands Act 1901 No 70*
Wollongong Sportsground Act 1986 No 174*
Workers Compensation Act 1987 No 70*
Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998 No 86

Regulations etc

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2006*
Criminal Procedure Regulation 2005*
District Court Rules 1973*
Electricity (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2006*
Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
Explosives Regulation 2005*
Fair Trading Regulation 2007
Firearms Regulation 2006
Institute of Teachers Regulation 2005*
Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Regulation 2005*
Legal Profession Admission Rules 2005
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*
Motor Accidents Compensation Regulation 2005*
Native Vegetation Regulation 2005*
Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*
Police Regulation (Superannuation) 1906 No 28*
Property, Stock and Business Agents Regulation 2003*
Racing Administration Regulation 2005*
State Authorities Superannuation Regulation 2005*
State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008*
State Environmental Planning Policy No 60 - Exempt and Complying Development (2000-93)*
Strata Schemes Management Regulation 2005*
Supreme Court (Corporations) Rules 1999
Transport Administration (General) Regulation 2005*
Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005*