NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SMALL CLAIMS AND OTHER MATTERS) ACT 2016

Act No. 3 of 2016

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 3 of 2016

An Act to amend legislation administered by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

[Assented to 2 March 2016] [Second reading 3 December 2015]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016.*

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act (except sections 18, 25 and 27) commences on the day fixed by the Administrator by *Gazette* notice.
- (2) Sections 18, 25 and 27 commence on the later of the following days:
 - (a) the day on which section 4 of the *Local Court Act 2015* commences;
 - (b) the day, or the latest of the days, fixed under subsection (1).

Part 2 Amendment of Cullen Bay Marina Act

3 Act amended

This Part amends the Cullen Bay Marina Act.

4 Section 2 amended

(1) Section 2

omit

, unless the contrary intention appears

(2) Section 2

insert (in alphabetical order)

Tribunal means the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

(3) Section 2, at the end

insert

Note for section 2

The Interpretation Act contains definitions and other provisions that may be relevant to this Act.

5 Sections 12B to 12F replaced

Sections 12B to 12F

repeal, insert

12B Persons who may make application for resolution of dispute

- (1) An application by one or more of the following, for resolution of a dispute based on a claim that there has been a breach of this Act, the Regulations, or By-laws made under this Act by one or more of the following, may be made to the Tribunal:
 - (a) the Management Corporation;
 - (b) an owner of a lot or unit;
 - (c) a mortgagee of a lot or unit; or
 - (d) a unit corporation.

- (2) An application for resolution of a dispute may be made to the Tribunal, based on a claim by an owner of a lot or unit, or a unit corporation, that they have been prejudiced by the wrongful act or default of one of the following:
 - (a) the Management Corporation;
 - (b) a committee of the Management Corporation;
 - (c) a person exercising powers under this Act.
- (3) An application for resolution of a dispute may be made to the Tribunal based on a claim by an owner of a lot or unit, or a unit corporation, in relation to the lot, alleging a wrongful act or default of:
 - (a) an owner of another lot; or
 - (b) an owner of a unit on another lot; or
 - (c) the unit corporation in relation to another lot.
- (4) An application for resolution of a dispute may be made to the Tribunal if:
 - (a) the application is made by an owner of a lot or unit, or a unit corporation; and
 - (b) the applicant claims that a decision of the Management Corporation, a committee of the Management Corporation or a person exercising powers under this Act is unreasonable, oppressive or unjust.
- (5) An application for resolution of a dispute may be made to the Tribunal if the dispute:
 - (a) is between:
 - (i) an owner of a lot or unit or the unit corporation; and
 - (ii) the Management Corporation or a committee of the Management Corporation; and
 - (b) relates to any aspect of the occupation or use of the lot or unit, or of the common property vested in the Management Corporation.

- (6) An application for resolution of a dispute may be made to the Tribunal, if the dispute:
 - (a) is between:
 - (i) an owner of a lot or unit; and
 - (ii) an owner of another lot or a unit on another lot, and
 - (b) relates to any aspect of the occupation or use of the lot or unit or the common property vested in the Management Corporation.
- (7) An application may be made to the Tribunal if the dispute:
 - (a) is between
 - (i) the registered proprietor of Lot 5556 Town of Darwin; and
 - (ii) a person mentioned in subsection (1); and
 - (b) relates to a restrictive covenant imposed under section 14.

12C Tribunal to resolve dispute

- (1) For resolving the dispute, the Tribunal may make any orders the Tribunal considers appropriate.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Tribunal may make one or more of the following orders:
 - (a) an order for the payment of money;
 - (b) an order that a person take, or refrain from taking, specified action;
 - (c) an order to confirm, vary or reverse a decision of the Management Corporation, a committee of the Management Corporation or a person exercising powers under this Act;
 - (d) an order that a party to the dispute pay compensation to any other party who has suffered loss because of:
 - (i) a wrongful act or default referred to in section 12B(2) or (3); or
 - (ii) an unreasonable, oppressive or unjust decision referred to in section 12B(4); or

- (iii) the unlawful or unauthorised use or occupation of a lot or unit or the common property vested in the Management Corporation;
- (e) order that the Management Corporation refund to an owner of a lot or unit, or a former owner of a lot or unit, money paid to the Management Corporation by the owner or former owner.

6 Part 6 inserted

After section 17

insert

Part 6 Transitional matters for Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016

18 Current proceedings to continue in Local Court

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement:
 - (a) proceedings under this Act had been commenced in the Local Court; and
 - (b) the proceedings, including any appeals that might be made, had not been finally determined.
- (2) The former law continues to apply in relation to the proceedings, including any appeals, as if the *Small Claims Act 2016* and the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters)*Act 2016 had not commenced.
- (3) In this section:

commencement means the commencement of section 9 of the Small Claims Act 2016.

former law means all of the following as in force immediately before the commencement:

- (a) this Act;
- (b) the Small Claims Act (being Act No. 67 of 1974 (as amended) repealed by section 9 of the Small Claims Act 2016);
- (c) the Local Court Act.

Part 3 Amendment of Local Court Act 1989 (as amended)

7 Act amended

This Part amends the *Local Court Act* (being Act No. 31 of 1989 as amended).

8 Section 3 amended

(1) Section 3

insert (in alphabetical order)

Tribunal means the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

(2) Section 3, at the end

insert

Note for section 3

The Interpretation Act contains definitions and other provisions that may be relevant to this Act.

9 Section 14 amended

(1) Section 14(1)

omit

subsections (3) and (7)

insert

subsection (3) and section 14A

(2) Section 14(1)(a) to (c), and (d)(i) at the end

insert

or

(3) Section 14(1)(d)(ii)

omit

and

insert

or

(4) Section 14(7)

omit

10 Section 14A inserted

After section 14

insert

14A Jurisdiction in small claims matters

- (1) The Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine a claim of a type mentioned in section 6 of the *Small Claims Act* as follows:
 - (a) if the whole claim is of that type only if the Tribunal has made an order under section 99A of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act to transfer the proceeding relating to the claim to the Court;
 - (b) if part of the claim is of that type if the Court is hearing and determining the other part of the claim.
- (2) If a proceeding is transferred to the Court as mentioned in subsection (1)(a), the Act under which the cause of action or claim arises applies:
 - (a) as if references in it to the Tribunal were references to the Court; and
 - (b) with any other necessary changes.

11 Section 17A inserted

After section 17

insert

17A Transfer of proceedings to Tribunal

- (1) The Court may make an order (a *transfer order*) that one or more causes of action or claims that would otherwise be dealt with in a proceeding before the Court be transferred to the Tribunal.
- (2) The Court may make a transfer order only if satisfied that the cause of action or claim is wholly within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
- (3) The Court may make a transfer order on application by a party or on its own initiative.

- (4) The Court may make a transfer order even though the proceeding is not within the Court's jurisdiction.
- (5) The Court, when making a transfer order, and the Tribunal, when dealing with the transferred cause of action or claim, may make any orders the Court or Tribunal thinks appropriate for facilitating the orderly transfer of the cause of action or claim to the Tribunal.
- (6) This section does not apply in relation to a proceeding that was commenced before the commencement of section 9 of the *Small Claims Act* 2016.

12 Section 19 amended

Section 19(8), definition *proceeding*, after "Act"

insert

(being Act No. 67 of 1974 as amended) (repealed)

Part 4 Amendment of Local Court Act 2015 (as amended)

13 Act amended

This Part amends the *Local Court Act* (being Act No. 15 of 2015 as amended).

14 Section 3 amended

(1) Section 3

insert (in alphabetical order)

Tribunal means the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

(2) Section 3, at the end

insert

Note for section 3

The Interpretation Act contains definitions and other provisions that may be relevant to this Act.

15 Section 13 amended

Section 13(4)

omit, insert

(4) However, the Court does not have jurisdiction to deal with a claim within the jurisdiction of another court or a tribunal conferred by another Act, except to the extent permitted by section 13A or another Act.

Note for subsection (4)

Section 99A(9) of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act confers jurisdiction on the Court in relation to proceedings transferred to the Court under that section.

16 Section 13A inserted

After section 13

insert

13A Jurisdiction in small claims matters

- (1) The Court has jurisdiction to deal with a claim of a type mentioned in section 6 of the Small Claims Act as follows:
 - (a) if the whole claim is of that type - only if the Tribunal has made an order under section 99A of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act to transfer the proceeding relating to the claim to the Court;
 - if part of the claim is of that type if the Court is dealing with the other part of the claim.
- (2) If a proceeding is transferred to the Court as mentioned in subsection (1)(a), the Act under which the cause of action or claim arises applies:
 - as if references in it to the Tribunal were references to the Court; and
 - with any other necessary changes.

17 Section 15 amended

Section 15(1), after "section 13"

insert

or 13A

18 Section 44A inserted

After section 44, in Part 4, Division 3

insert

44A Transfer of proceedings to Tribunal

- (1) The Court may make an order (a transfer order) that one or more claims that would otherwise be dealt with in a proceeding before the Court be transferred to the Tribunal.
- (2) The Court may make a transfer order only if satisfied that the claim is within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.
- (3) The Court may make a transfer order on application by a party or on its own initiative.
- (4) The Court may make a transfer order even though the proceeding is not within the Court's jurisdiction.
- (5) The Court, when making a transfer order, and the Tribunal, when dealing with the transferred claim, may make any orders the Court or Tribunal thinks appropriate for facilitating the orderly transfer of the claim to the Tribunal.

19 Part 8 heading amended

Part 8, heading, at the end

insert

for Local Court Act 2015

20 Part 8, Division 2 heading amended

Part 8, Division 2, heading

omit

for Local Court Act 2015

21

After section 94

Part 9 inserted

insert

Part 9 Transitional matters for Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016

95 Application of section 44A

Section 44A does not apply in relation to proceedings that were commenced in the old Local Court (as defined in section 83) before the commencement of section 9 of the *Small Claims Act 2016*.

Note for section 95

Proceedings commenced in the old Local Court that are ongoing at the commencement of the Local Court Act 2015 are continued by section 86.

Part 5 Amendment of Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act

Division 1 Preliminary matters

22 Act amended

This Part amends the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act.*

Division 2 Amendments on commencement of Small Claims Act 2016

23 Section 80 amended

(1) Section 80, heading

omit

if person was absent

(2) Section 80(1)(a) and (b)

omit, insert

(a) at a relevant proceeding the person did not appear in person or by a representative; or

- (b) the person consented to the Tribunal making the decision.
- (3) Section 80(4)

omit, insert

- (4) The Tribunal may reopen the proceeding and set aside or vary the decision, if the Tribunal is satisfied that:
 - (a) if subsection (1)(a) applies the applicant had a reasonable excuse for not attending the relevant proceeding in person or by a representative; or
 - (b) if subsection (1)(b) applies there are grounds on which the order ought to be set aside or varied (for example because of fraud, duress, suppression of evidence or the giving of false evidence).
- (4) Section 80(7), definition *relevant proceeding*

omit

which a decision

insert

which the decision

24 Section 99A inserted

After section 99

insert

99A Transfer of proceeding to Local Court or Supreme Court

- (1) The President may make an order (a transfer order) that a matter be transferred to the Local Court or the Supreme Court (the recipient court).
- (2) The President may make a transfer order if satisfied that:
 - (a) the matter is not within the Tribunal's jurisdiction; or
 - (b) because of the circumstances of the case, the proceeding would be more appropriately heard by the recipient court.

Example for subsection (2)(b)

Circumstances that might be relevant include the following:

(a) the complexity of the matter, or the proceeding;

- (b) the difficulty or novelty of the issues raised;
- (c) the unsuitability of the Tribunal's powers and procedures for dealing with the matter;
- (d) that the matter is closely related to a cause of action between the same parties that is before the Local Court.
- (3) The President may make a transfer order on application by a party or on the President's own initiative.
- (4) The President may make a transfer order:
 - (a) even if the matter is not within the Tribunal's jurisdiction; but
 - (b) only if it appears to the President that the matter is, or when transferred will be, within the jurisdiction of the recipient court.

Note for subsection (4)(b)

In relation to the jurisdiction of the Local Court or Supreme Court for transferred matters, see section 14A of the Local Court Act or section 16A of the Supreme Court Act.

- (5) The President must not make a transfer order unless satisfied that doing so would be in the interests of justice.
- (6) The President, when making a transfer order, and the recipient court when dealing with the transferred matter, may make any orders the President or court thinks appropriate for facilitating the orderly transfer of the matter to the court.
- (7) A recipient court may refuse to accept the transfer of a matter if:
 - (a) the matter is within the Tribunal's jurisdiction; and
 - (b) the recipient court is satisfied that:
 - (i) because of the circumstances of the matter, the proceeding would be more appropriately heard by the Tribunal; and
 - (ii) it is in the interests of justice to do so.
- (8) If a recipient court refuses to accept a transfer of a matter:
 - (a) the transfer order is of no effect; and
 - (b) the President must not make another transfer order in relation to the matter.

Note for section 99A

For the transfer of proceedings from the Local Court or Supreme Court to the Tribunal, see section 17A of the Local Court Act or section 16 of the Supreme

25

Court Act.

Division 3 Amendments on commencement of Local Court Act 2015

(1)Section 99A(4), note

Section 99A amended

omit

section 14A

insert

section 13A

(2)After section 99A(8)

insert

- (9) For section 13A of the Local Court Act, if a transfer order is made to transfer to the Local Court a matter that is within the Tribunal's jurisdiction:
 - jurisdiction to deal with the claim mentioned in that section is taken to be conferred on the Local Court as well as the Tribunal: and
 - the Act under which the jurisdiction is conferred on the (b) Tribunal applies:
 - as if references in it to the Tribunal were references to (i) the Court; and
 - with any other necessary changes.
- (3)Section 99A, note

omit

section 17A

insert

section 44A

Part 6 Amendment of Small Claims Act 2016

26 Act amended

This Part amends the Small Claims Act 2016.

27 Section 6 amended

Section 6, note 2

omit

14A

insert

13A

Part 7 Amendment of Supreme Court Act

28 Act amended

This Part amends the Supreme Court Act.

29 Section 16 amended

(1) Section 16, heading, at the end

insert

or Civil and Administrative Tribunal

(2) Section 16(1)

omit

Court if

insert

Court or Civil and Administrative Tribunal if

(3) Section 16(1)

omit

Court at

insert

Court or Tribunal at

(4) Section 16(2) and (3), after "Local Court"

insert

or Tribunal

(5) Section 16(3)

omit

that court

insert

the Local Court or Tribunal

30 Section 16A inserted

After section 16

insert

16A Transfer of proceedings from Civil and Administrative Tribunal

If the Civil and Administrative Tribunal makes a transfer order under section 99A of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act* to transfer a matter to the Court, the Act under which the jurisdiction is conferred on the Tribunal applies:

- (a) as if references in it to the Tribunal were references to the Court; and
- (b) with any other necessary changes.

31 Section 89 inserted

After section 88

insert

Transitional matters for Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016

Section 16, as amended by section 29 of the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016*, does not apply in relation to a proceeding that was commenced before section 29 of that Act commenced.

Part 8 Amendment of Unit Title Schemes Act

32 Act amended

This Part amends the *Unit Title Schemes Act*.

33 Section 5 amended

(1) Section 5

insert (in alphabetical order)

Tribunal means the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

(2) Section 5, at the end

insert

Note for section 5

The Interpretation Act contains definitions and other provisions that may be relevant to this Act.

34 Section 40 amended

(1) Section 40, heading

omit, insert

40 Adjustment of unit entitlements by Tribunal

(2) Section 40(1), (3) and (4)

omit

Local Court

insert

Tribunal

(3) Section 40(3)(a)

omit

Court

insert

Tribunal

35 Section 85 replaced

Section 85

repeal, insert

85 Application for resolution of dispute

- (1) A person (the *applicant*) mentioned in section 84 may apply to the Tribunal for the resolution of a dispute between the applicant and another person (the *respondent*) mentioned in that section.
- (2) Subject to sections 128 and 129 of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act*, the applicant and respondent are the parties to the proceedings for the application.

Note for subsection (2)

Sections 128 and 129 of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act provide for other persons being joined, or intervening, as parties.

- (3) If the body corporate is a party to the proceedings, the body corporate may appoint the body corporate manager or a unit owner to be its representative in the proceedings.
- (4) This Part does not affect any other remedy a person may have in relation to the dispute.

36 Section 86 amended

(1) Section 86, heading

omit, insert

86 Tribunal to resolve dispute

(2) Section 86(1)

omit, insert

- (1) For resolving the dispute, the Tribunal may make any orders the Tribunal considers appropriate.
- (1A) Without limiting subsection (1), the Tribunal may make one or more of the following orders:
 - (a) an order for the payment of money;
 - (b) an order that a person take, or refrain from taking, specified action;

- (c) an order to confirm, vary or reverse a decision of the body corporate or committee;
- (d) an order that a change be made to a by-law.
- (3) Section 86(2) and (3)

omit

Local Court

insert

Tribunal

(4) Section 86(2)(c)

omit

Court

insert

Tribunal

37 Section 104 repealed

Section 104

repeal

38 Part 4.4 inserted

After section 113

insert

Part 4.4 Transitional matters for Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016

114 Definitions

In this Part:

commencement means the commencement of section 9 of the Small Claims Act 2016.

former law means all of the following as in force immediately before the commencement:

- (a) this Act;
- (b) the Small Claims Act (being Act No. 67 of 1974 (as amended) repealed by section 9 of the Small Claims Act 2016);
- (c) the Local Court Act,
- (d) the Supreme Court Act.

115 Current proceedings to continue in court

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement:
 - (a) proceedings under this Act had been commenced in the Local Court or Supreme Court; and
 - (b) the proceedings, including any appeals that might be made, had not been finally determined.
- (2) The former law continues to apply in relation to the proceedings, including any appeals, as if the *Small Claims Act 2016* and the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016* had not commenced.

116 References to orders

A reference in this Act to an order of the Tribunal made under a provision of this Act includes a reference to an order of the Local Court or Supreme Court made under that provision before the commencement.

39 Act further amended

Schedule 1 has effect.

Part 9 Amendment of Unit Titles Act

40 Act amended

This Part amends the *Unit Titles Act*.

41 Section 4 amended

(1) Section 4(1)

omit

, unless the contrary intention appears

(2) Section 4(1), definition *the Court*

omit

(3) Section 4(1)

insert (in alphabetical order)

Tribunal means the Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

(4) Subsection 4(1), at the end

insert

Note for subsection 4(1)

The Interpretation Act contains definitions and other provisions that may be relevant to this Act.

42 Section 106 amended

(1) Section 106(2)

omit, insert

- (2) Subject to this section, the application must be made to the Tribunal and dealt with by the Tribunal within its original jurisdiction.
- (2) Section 106(4)

omit, insert

- (4) For resolving the dispute, the Tribunal may make any orders the Tribunal considers appropriate.
- (4A) Without limiting subsection (4), the Tribunal may make one or more of the following orders:
 - (a) an order for the payment of money;
 - (b) an order that a corporation refund to a member money paid to the corporation by the member;
 - (c) an order that a person take, or refrain from taking, any action;

- (d) an order to confirm, vary or reverse a decision of the corporation or committee;
- (e) an order altering the articles of a corporation.
- (4) Section 106(5) and (6)

omit (all references)

Court

insert

Tribunal

(5) Section 106(7) to (9)

omit

43 Section 107 repealed

Section 107

repeal

44 Part XIII inserted

After section 116

insert

Part XIII

Transitional matters for Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016

117 Definitions

In this Part:

commencement means the commencement of section 9 of the Small Claims Act 2016.

former law means all of the following as in force immediately before the commencement:

- (a) this Act;
- (b) the Small Claims Act (being Act No. 67 of 1974 (as amended) repealed by section 9 of the Small Claims Act 2016);

(c) the Local Court Act.

118 Current proceedings to continue in Local Court

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement:
 - (a) proceedings under this Act had been commenced in the Local Court; and
 - (b) the proceedings, including any appeals that might be made, had not been finally determined.
- (2) The former law continues to apply in relation to the proceedings, including any appeals, as if the *Small Claims Act 2016* and the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Small Claims and Other Matters) Act 2016* had not commenced.

119 References to orders

A reference in this Act to an order of the Tribunal made under a provision of this Act includes a reference to an order of the Local Court made under that provision before the commencement.

45 Act further amended

Schedule 2 has effect.

Part 10 Other laws amended

46 Other laws amended

Schedule 3 amends the laws mentioned in it.

Part 11 Expiry of Act

47 Expiry of Act

This Act expires on the later of the following days:

- (a) the day after it commences;
- (b) the day on which the Local Court Act 2015 commences.

Schedule 1 Unit Title Schemes Act further amended

section 39

Provision	Amendment	
	omit	insert
section 59, heading	court	Tribunal
section 59(1) and (4) to (6)	Local Court	Tribunal
section 59(4)(a)(ii)	Court	Tribunal
section 61(1)	Local Court the Court	Tribunal the Local Court or Tribunal
section 71(1)(a) and (3)	Supreme Court	Tribunal
section 71(3)	the Court	the Tribunal
section 72(1)(a) and (3)	Supreme Court	Tribunal
section 72(3)	the Court	the Tribunal
sections 97(2)(b)(ii) and 98(2) to (4)	Local Court	Tribunal

Schedule 2 Unit Titles Act further amended

section 45

Provision	Amendment		
	omit	insert	
sections 26, 26H(1), 26V(1), 26W(3) and (5), 26ZO(1), 26ZT, 47A(1), 89, 90(1) and (2), 91, 92, 93(2) and (3), 98(1), (4) and (5), 99, 100 and 109(1)	Court (all references)	Tribunal	
section 99, heading	Court	Tribunal	
section 102	Court shall in a final order under section 95, or	Tribunal may,	

Schedule 3 Other laws amended

section 46

Provision	Amendment			
	omit	insert		
Cullen Bay Marina Reg	ulations			
regulations 9(1)(b) and 27(1), after "court"		or tribunal		
Interpretation Act				
section 17, definition court of competent jurisdiction, after "court"		or tribunal		
Unit Title Schemes (Ma	nagement Modules) Reg	ulations		
Schedule 1, clause 1, definitions <i>dispute</i> , <i>eligible adjudicator</i> and <i>party</i>	whole definition			
Schedule 1, clause 45, heading	Court	Tribunal		
Schedule 1, clause 45(2)	Local Court	Tribunal		
Schedule 2, clause 45, heading	Court	Tribunal		
Schedule 2, clause 45(2)	Local Court	Tribunal		
Schedule 3, clause 36, heading	Court	Tribunal		
Schedule 3, clause 36(2)	Local Court	Tribunal		
Unit Titles Regulations				
regulation 17(2)(a)	Local Court	Tribunal		

Schedule 2, Local Court Tribunal

clause 3(1), Schedule 5, clause 13(1)

Unit Titles (Management Modules) Regulations

Schedule 1, clause 44, Court Tribunal

heading

Schedule 1, Court Tribunal

clause 44(2)