

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL 1991

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# NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

## A BILL for AN ACT

to consolidate legislation in relation to the  
office of Justice of the Peace

**B**E it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia, with the assent as provided by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth, as follows:

### 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the *Justices of the Peace Act 1991*.

### 2. COMMENCEMENT

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Administrator by notice in the *Gazette*.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears -

"clerk of the peace" means the person appointed under section 13 to be the clerk of the peace;

"justice of the peace" means a person appointed under section 5 to be, or a person who by virtue of holding office in accordance with section 6 is, a justice of the peace.

### 4. OFFICE OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

There shall be an office of justice of the peace.

### 5. APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

(1) The Administrator may appoint to the office of justice of the peace as many persons as are necessary to carry out the functions of justices of the peace in the Territory.

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- (2) An appointment under subsection (1) may be -
  - (a) limited to a term of years; and
  - (b) conditional on the person appointed residing in a particular locality.

6. CERTAIN OFFICE HOLDERS TO BE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(1) A person who holds or acts in an office specified in Schedule 1 is, by virtue of holding or acting in the office, a justice of the peace.

(2) A person referred to in subsection (1) ceases to hold office as a justice of the peace if -

- (a) the person ceases to hold or act in an office specified in Schedule 1; or
- (b) the person's appointment as justice of the peace is terminated under section 8(1).

7. OATH OF OFFICE

A justice of the peace appointed under section 5 must, before proceeding to exercise the powers or discharge the duties of the office, take an oath or make an affirmation in accordance with Schedule 2.

8. TERMINATION, &c.

(1) The Administrator may, by notice in the *Gazette*, terminate the appointment of a person as a justice of the peace.

(2) A person whose appointment is terminated ceases to be a justice of the peace on the day specified in the notice published under subsection (1).

(3) A justice of the peace may, at any time, resign from the office of justice of the peace by writing addressed to the clerk of the peace.

9. VACATION OF OFFICE

Subject to section 6, a person ceases to hold office as a justice of the peace if -

- (a) in accordance with section 8(1) the Administrator terminates the appointment;
- (b) he or she has resigned under section 8(3);
- (c) the appointment was subject to a condition and the condition ceases to be fulfilled; or
- (d) the appointment was for a specified period which has expired.

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### 10. PROTECTION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

A justice of the peace has, in the performance of his or her judicial duties as a justice of the peace, the same protection and immunity as a magistrate has in the performance of his or her duties as a magistrate.

### 11. AUTHORITY OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(1) A justice of the peace is entitled to use the title "Justice of the Peace" or "JP".

(2) A justice of the peace may exercise any power conferred on a justice of the peace by this or any other Act, including an Act of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory or another country (whether enacted before or after the commencement of this Act).

(3) A justice of the peace may -

(a) administer an oath;

(b) take an affidavit; and

(c) for the purpose of a law in force in the Territory, attest the execution of a document.

### 12. REFERENCES TO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Where by, under or for the purposes of a law in force in the Territory a power is conferred on, or a function or duty may be performed by, a justice of the peace, that power may be exercised, or the function or duty may be performed, outside the Territory by a person who is a justice of the peace, a judge or a magistrate, for the place in which it is exercised or performed.

### 13. CLERK OF THE PEACE

(1) The Departmental Head of the department primarily responsible for the administration of this Act shall appoint a person to be the clerk of the peace.

(2) The clerk of the peace shall maintain a roll of justices of the peace.

(3) Within 28 days after changing his or her address, a justice of the peace shall, in writing, notify the clerk of the peace of the change of address and the clerk of the peace shall amend the roll accordingly.

### 14. TRANSITIONAL

(1) An appointment of a person as a justice of the peace under section 10(1) of the *Justices Act* that is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act continues in force as if the appointment was made under

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this Act and expressed to be for a period of 5 years after that commencement.

(2) An appointment under section 10(1) of the *Justices Act* of a person that is subject to a condition under section 10(3) of that Act in force immediately before the commencement of this Act continues in force, subject to the conditions expressed in the appointment, as if the appointment was made under this Act.

(3) A reference to a justice of the peace (however described) shall be read as a reference to a justice of the peace appointed or holding office as a justice of the peace under this Act.

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SCHEDULE 1

Section 6

Judge of the Supreme Court

Master of the Supreme Court

Registrar of the Supreme Court

Magistrate

Registrar of the Local Court

Judicial Registrar or Registrar of the Family Court of Australia

Mayor of a city or town

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SCHEDULE 2

Section 6

OATH

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear that I will well and truly serve her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors, in the office of justice of the peace and that I will do right to all manner of people according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will. So help me God!

AFFIRMATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will well and truly serve her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, Her heirs and successors, in the office of justice of the peace and that I will do right to all manner of people according to law, without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

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