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# AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY.

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**No. 42 of 1954.**

An Act to provide for the Government of the  
Australian Antarctic Territory.

[Assented to 1st November, 1954.]

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS the Australian Antarctic Territory was, by the *Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act 1933*, accepted by the Commonwealth as a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth :

AND WHEREAS the Australian Antarctic Territory has been governed by the Commonwealth under the provisions of that Act :

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to make other provision for the government of the Australian Antarctic Territory :

BE it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate, and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Australian Antarctic Territory Act* 1954. Short title.
2. This Act shall come into operation on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent. Commencement.
3. Section three of the *Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act* 1933 is repealed. Repeal.
4. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears— Definitions.

“Ordinance” means an Ordinance made under this Act ;

“the Territory” means the Australian Antarctic Territory which was accepted by the Commonwealth by the *Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act* 1933, that is to say, that part of the territory in the Antarctic seas which comprises all the islands and territories, other than Adélie Land, situated south of the sixtieth degree south latitude and lying between the one hundred and sixtieth degree east longitude and the forty-fifth degree east longitude.
5. The laws in force in the Territory immediately before the commencement of this Act (not being laws of the Commonwealth in force in the Territory) shall, upon the commencement of this Act, cease to be in force. Existing laws to cease to be in force.
- 6.—(1.) Subject to this Act, the laws in force from time to time in the Australian Capital Territory (including the principles and rules of common law and equity so in force) are, by virtue of this section, so far as they are applicable to the Territory and are not inconsistent with an Ordinance, in force in the Territory as if the Territory formed part of the Australian Capital Territory. Laws of Australian Capital Territory to be in force.

(2.) The last preceding sub-section does not extend to a law in force in the Australian Capital Territory, being an Act or a provision of an Act so in force, other than—

  - (a) sections six and nine of the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act* 1909–1938 ; and
  - (b) sections three, four and twelve c of the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act* 1910–1947 and the Schedule to that Act.
- 7.—(1.) Subject to the next succeeding sub-section, where, by a law of the Australian Capital Territory in force in the Territory by virtue of the last preceding section, a power or function is vested in a person or authority (not being a court), that power or function is, in relation to the Territory, vested in, and may be exercised or performed by, that person or authority. Exercise of powers and performance of functions under adopted laws.

(2.) The Governor-General may direct that a power or function vested in a person or authority (not being a court) by a law of the Australian Capital Territory in force in the Territory by virtue of

the last preceding section shall, in relation to the Territory, be vested in, and may be exercised or performed by, such other person or authority as the Governor-General specifies.

Application of  
Commonwealth  
Acts.

8.—(1.) An Act or a provision of an Act (whether passed before or after the commencement of this Act) is not, except as otherwise provided by that Act or by another Act, in force as such in the Territory, unless expressed to extend to the Territory.

(2.) An Ordinance shall not be made so as to affect the application of its own force in, or in relation to, the Territory of an Act or a provision of an Act.

Ordinance may  
amend or  
repeal adopted  
laws.

9. A law in force in the Territory by virtue of section six of this Act may be amended or repealed by an Ordinance or by a law made under an Ordinance.

Supreme Court  
of Australian  
Capital  
Territory  
to have  
jurisdiction in  
Territory.

10. The Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory has jurisdiction in and in relation to the Territory, and the *Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act 1933-1950* and the rules of court for the time being in force under that Act apply in the Territory as if the Territory formed part of the Australian Capital Territory.

Ordinances.

11.—(1.) The Governor-General may make Ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the Territory.

(2.) Notice of the making of an Ordinance shall be published in the *Gazette*, and an Ordinance shall, unless the contrary intention appears in the Ordinance, come into operation on the date of publication of the notice.

Tabling of  
Ordinances in  
Parliament.

12.—(1.) An Ordinance shall be laid before each House of the Parliament within fifteen sitting days of that House after the making of the Ordinance, and, if it is not so laid before each House of the Parliament, shall be void and of no effect.

(2.) If either House of the Parliament passes a resolution (of which notice has been given at any time within fifteen sitting days after the Ordinance has been laid before that House) disallowing an Ordinance or a part of an Ordinance, the Ordinance or part so disallowed shall thereupon cease to have effect.

(3.) If, at the expiration of fifteen sitting days after notice of a resolution to disallow an Ordinance or part of an Ordinance has been given in either House of the Parliament in accordance with the last preceding sub-section, the resolution has not been withdrawn or otherwise disposed of, the Ordinance or part, as the case may be, shall thereupon be deemed to have been disallowed.

(4.) Where an Ordinance or part of an Ordinance is disallowed, or is deemed to have been disallowed, under this section, the disallowance has the same effect as a repeal of the Ordinance or part of the Ordinance, as the case may be, except that, if a provision of the Ordinance or part of the Ordinance amended or repealed a law in force immediately before that provision came into operation,

the disallowance revives the previous law from and including the date of the disallowance as if the disallowed provision had not been made.

(5.) If an Ordinance or part of an Ordinance is disallowed, or is deemed to have been disallowed, under this section, and an Ordinance containing a provision being the same in substance as a provision so disallowed, or deemed to have been disallowed, is made within six months after the date of the disallowance, that provision is void and of no effect, unless—

- (a) in the case of an Ordinance, or part of an Ordinance, disallowed by resolution—the resolution has been rescinded by the House of the Parliament by which it was passed; or
  - (b) in the case of an Ordinance, or part of an Ordinance, deemed to have been disallowed—the House of the Parliament in which notice to disallow that Ordinance or part was given approves, by resolution, the making of a provision the same in substance as the provision deemed to have been disallowed.
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