

**RURAL WORKERS ACCOMMODATION
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1977**

New South Wales



ANNO VICESIMO SEXTO

ELIZABETHÆ II REGINÆ

Act No. 66, 1977.

An Act to amend the Rural Workers Accommodation Act, 1969, to make further provision with respect to the standards of accommodation for rural workers. [Assented to, 7th September, 1977.]

BE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the "Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment) Act, 1977".

**Commence-
ment.** 2. (1) This section and sections 1 and 3 shall commence on the date of assent to this Act.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1), this Act shall commence on such day as may be appointed by the Governor in respect thereof and as may be notified by proclamation published in the Gazette.

Schedules. 3. This Act contains the following Schedules :—

SCHEDULE 1.—AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 6 OF THE
RURAL WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969.

SCHEDULE 2.—AMENDMENTS TO PART 1 OF THE
SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL WORKERS ACCOMMO-
DATION ACT, 1969.

SCHEDULE 3.—AMENDMENT TO PART 2 OF THE
SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL WORKERS ACCOMMO-
DATION ACT, 1969.

SCHEDULE 4.—AMENDMENTS TO PART 3 OF THE
SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL WORKERS ACCOMMO-
DATION ACT, 1969.

**Amendment
of Act No.
34, 1969.** 4. The Rural Workers Accommodation Act, 1969, is amended in the manner set forth in Schedules 1–4.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 1.

Sec. 4.

AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 6 OF THE RURAL WORKERS
ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969.

(1) Section 6 (1)—

Omit “by this Act”, insert instead “by or under this Act”.

(2) Section 6 (1)—

Omit “and as prescribed”.

(3) Section 6 (2) (a)—

Omit “by and under”, insert instead “by or under”.

(4) Section 6 (2) (a) (i)—

Omit “prescribed by”, insert instead “prescribed by or under”.

(5) Section 6 (2) (b)—

Omit “prescribed by”, insert instead “prescribed by or under”.

(6) Section 6 (2A)—

After section 6 (2), insert :—

(2A) The accommodation required to be provided by subsection (2) is, except as prescribed by the regulations, accommodation that complies with the provisions of Part 1, 2 or 3, as the case may be, of the Schedule and the regulations at the time when—

(a) in the case of accommodation that consists of a building or structure, it is erected; or

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 1—*continued.*

AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 6 OF THE RURAL WORKERS
ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

- (b) in the case of accommodation that consists of furnishings, equipment, facilities or amenities, it is first provided or installed.
-

Sec. 4.

SCHEDULE 2.

AMENDMENTS TO PART 1 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969.

- (1) Clauses (6), (6A)—

Omit clause (6), insert instead :—

(6) *Damp-proofing.*

- (i) Except as provided in subclause (ii), where a building has a concrete floor which is laid on the ground or on filling material, a damp-proof course, membrane or other approved means of damp-proofing shall be provided to prevent moisture from the ground reaching the inner surface of the floor and the walls that rest on that inner surface.
- (ii) The Under Secretary may grant an exemption from subclause (i) where he is satisfied that, having regard to the location of the building or the construction of the floor of that building, the provision of damp-proofing is unnecessary.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 2—*continued.*

AMENDMENTS TO PART I OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

- (iii) Where a building has external walls of brick, stone or concrete, a damp-proof course shall be provided in each wall.
- (iv) Where a building has external walls of a material other than brick, stone or concrete, the Under Secretary may require a damp-proof course to be provided in each wall as a condition of an approval granted under section 8.

(6A) *Termite-proofing.* A building of timber frame construction, other than a building the floor of which is of concrete, shall rest upon brick, stone or concrete walls or piers or upon wooden piers with galvanised iron or zinc plates or plates of aluminium not less than 0.40 millimetre in thickness, bitumen-coated on each face, on top of the walls or piers.

(2) Clause (8)—

Omit “The floor of every room other than a bathroom, washing room, meat house or closet shall be constructed of sawn, well seasoned flooring boards, so fitted as to be free from cracks, or of any other prescribed or approved material : Provided that the floor of a meat house may be constructed either of such boards or of cement or other prescribed or approved material.”, insert instead :—

The floor of a room shall be constructed of raft or slab type concrete of not less than 100 millimetres in thickness or, except in the case of a bathroom, washing room, meat house or closet, of sawn, well seasoned flooring boards, so fitted as to be free from cracks, or of any other prescribed or approved material.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 2—*continued.*AMENDMENTS TO PART 1 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

Where the floor of a room is constructed of concrete, the Under Secretary may require, as a condition of an approval under section 8, that the floor be covered with hardboard, asphalt tiles, vinyl tiles or other prescribed or approved material.

(3) Clause (10)—

At the end of clause (10), insert :—

This clause shall apply to bathrooms and clothes washing rooms erected on or after 30th June, 1978.

(4) Clause (13) (i)—

After “ceiling,” insert “double-catch louvre windows capable of being opened separately at the top and bottom”.

(5) Clause (21) (ii)—

Omit :—

have—

(a) a door, and

(b) a servery window

insert instead “have a door and may have a servery window”.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 2—*continued.*

AMENDMENTS TO PART 1 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

(6) Clause (30)—

After “clothes”, insert “within the building in which the sleeping accommodation is provided or within a distance of not more than 15 metres from that building”.

(7) (a) Clause (31) (ii)—

Omit “The top of the wall plate shall”, insert instead “Where the bathroom is erected before 30th June, 1978, the top of the wall plate shall”.

(b) Clause (31) (ii)—

At the end of the subclause, insert “Where the bathroom is erected on or after 30th June, 1978, it shall be constructed so as to provide ventilation in accordance with clause (13) (i).”.

(8) (a) Clause (33) (i) (b)—

Omit “The top of the wall plate shall”, insert instead “Where the room is erected before 30th June, 1978, the top of the wall plate shall”.

(b) Clause (33) (i) (b)—

At the end of the paragraph, insert “Where the room is erected on or after 30th June, 1978, it shall be constructed so as to provide ventilation in accordance with clause (13) (i).”.

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

Sec. 4.**SCHEDULE 3.****AMENDMENT TO PART 2 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969.**

Clauses (2)–(8)—

Omit clause (2), insert instead :—

(2) *Bathroom or shower-room.* Notwithstanding anything contained in the Local Government Act, a bathroom or shower-room shall be erected to the following specifications—

- (i) It shall be provided inside the building in which the sleeping accommodation is provided in a room separate from other habitable rooms or within a distance of not more than 3 metres from that building.
- (ii) It shall be of galvanised iron, timber or other prescribed or approved material.
- (iii) The height from the floor to the ceiling shall be not less than 2400 millimetres.
- (iv) The effective glass area of the window or (where there is more than one window) of the windows shall be not less than one-tenth of the floor area of that bathroom or shower-room or not less than 0.3 square metre, whichever is the greater. In this subclause, “effective” means effective for the transmission of light.
- (v) There shall be a door not less than 1950 millimetres in height and not less than 720 millimetres in width.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 3—*continued.*

AMENDMENT TO PART 2 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

- (vi) The floor surface shall be of a material impervious to moisture properly graded and drained.
 - (vii) The junctions of the floors with the walls shall be so treated as to prevent penetration of moisture into the walls.
 - (viii) A bathroom shall be not less than 1500 millimetres in width.
 - (ix) The floor area of a bathroom, whether or not a wash-hand basin is provided in that bathroom, shall be not less than 2.2 square metres but, where the bathroom is provided with a bath and a shower that is not above the bath, the floor area shall be not less than 2.8 square metres.
 - (x) A shower-room shall be not less than 900 millimetres in width.
 - (xi) The floor area of a shower-room, whether or not a wash-hand basin is provided in that shower-room, shall be not less than 1.1 square metres.
- (3) *Baths and Showers.* A bathroom shall contain at least one bath. A shower-room shall contain at least one shower but no bath.

(4) *Hot Water.* There shall be an adequate means of heating the water for use in a bathroom or shower-room.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 3—*continued.*AMENDMENT TO PART 2 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*(5) *Washing Room.*

- (i) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Local Government Act, a room for the washing of clothes shall be erected to the following specifications—
 - (a) It shall be provided inside the building in which the sleeping accommodation is provided in a room separate from other habitable rooms or within a distance of not more than 3 metres from that building.
 - (b) It shall be of galvanised iron, timber or other prescribed or approved material.
 - (c) The height from the floor to the ceiling shall be not less than 2400 millimetres.
 - (d) The effective glass area of the window or (where there is more than one window) of the windows shall be not less than one-tenth of the floor area of that washing room or not less than 0.3 square metre, whichever is the greater. In this sub-clause, “effective” means effective for the transmission of light.
 - (e) There shall be a door not less than 1950 millimetres in height and not less than 720 millimetres in width.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 3—*continued.*

AMENDMENT TO PART 2 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

- (f) The floor surface shall be of a material impervious to moisture properly graded and drained.
- (g) It shall be not less than 1800 millimetres in width.
- (h) Except as provided in paragraph (i), the floor area of a washing room shall be not less than 4 square metres.
- (i) In respect of accommodation occupied by not more than one worker, a bathroom or shower-room may be used also as a washing room if the minimum floor area of that bathroom or shower-room is increased by the addition of a floor area of 1.1 square metres where—
 - (a) that bathroom or shower-room contains one laundry tub and one copper; or
 - (b) that bathroom or shower-room contains one laundry tub and one washing machine.
- (ii) A washing room shall contain at least one laundry tub, one hand basin and a copper, a washing machine or other approved means of washing clothes in hot water.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 3—*continued.*

AMENDMENT TO PART 2 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

(6) *Drying of Clothes.* A clothes line of galvanised wire or other approved means of drying clothes shall be provided adjacent to a washing room.

(7) *Restriction on Provision of Bathing and Washing Facilities.* A shower, bath or facility for the washing of clothes shall not be installed in a kitchen or any room used for the preparation or consumption of food.

- (8) *Miscellaneous.* There shall be provided—
- (i) a sufficient supply of drinking water;
 - (ii) a sufficient supply of water, reticulated to the tap or taps within the bathroom, shower-room and washing room, for bathing and washing;
 - (iii) not less than 110 litres of refrigeration for perishable foodstuffs; and
 - (iv) such other accommodation as is prescribed.

Sec. 4.

SCHEDULE 4.

AMENDMENTS TO PART 3 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969.

(1) Clause (1A)—

After clause (1), insert:—

(1A) There shall also be provided such accommodation as may be prescribed.

SCHEDULE

Rural Workers Accommodation (Amendment).

SCHEDULE 4—*continued.*

AMENDMENTS TO PART 3 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL
WORKERS ACCOMMODATION ACT, 1969—*continued.*

(2) Clause (6)—

After clause (5), insert :—

(6) Without limiting clause (1A), the Governor may make regulations for the purpose of that clause prescribing standards or requirements for accommodation, including particular standards or requirements with respect to any matter referred to in any provision of this Part of this Schedule that does not, in the opinion of the Governor, make sufficiently particular provision with respect to that matter.
