

**BUSINESS FRANCHISE LICENCES (PETROLEUM  
PRODUCTS) AMENDMENT ACT 1989 No. 82**

NEW SOUTH WALES



**TABLE OF PROVISIONS**

1. Short title
  2. Commencement
  3. Amendment of Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 No. 94
- SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS**
-



**BUSINESS FRANCHISE LICENCES (PETROLEUM PRODUCTS)  
AMENDMENT ACT 1989 No. 82**

NEW SOUTH WALES



**Act No. 82, 1989**

An Act to amend the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 to make further provision in relation to the enforcement of that Act, appeals and recovery of licence fees; and for other purposes. [Assented to 2 June 1989]

*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*

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**The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:**

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989.

**Commencement**

2. This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

**Amendment of Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 No. 94**

3. The Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 is amended as set out in Schedule 1.

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**SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS**

(Sec. 3)

(1) Section 3 (**Interpretation**)—

(a) Section 3 (1)—

After the definition of “Chief Commissioner”, insert:

“diesel fuel” means a petroleum or shale product used or capable of being used in propelling a diesel engined road vehicle;

(b) Section 3 (4)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:

(4) A sale of petroleum products made outside New South Wales in the course of petroleum wholesaling or petroleum retailing shall for the purposes of this Act be regarded as having been made in New South Wales if the terms (whether express or implied) of the sale or of any contract for the sale—

- (a) require either party to deliver, or arrange delivery of, the petroleum products into or within New South Wales; or
- (b) contemplate delivery of the petroleum products into or within New South Wales.

(2) Section 6 (**Application of Act to intrastate trade**)—

Section 6 (2)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:

(2) Nothing in this section affects the operation of section 31 of the Interpretation Act 1987.



SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

## (3) Section 27A—

Before section 28, insert:

**Expanded meaning of “sell”**

27A. In this Part—

“sell” includes the following:

- (a) barter and exchange;
- (b) deal in, agree to sell, or offer or expose for sale;
- (c) have in possession, custody or control for sale;
- (d) send, forward, deliver or receive for sale or on sale;
- (e) authorise, direct, cause, suffer, permit or attempt any of those acts or things.

## (4) Section 32—

Omit the section, insert instead:

**Possession of commercial quantities—presumptions**

32. If petroleum products in a person's possession, custody or control are stored in a tank (whether or not mounted on a vehicle) having a capacity that exceeds the prescribed quantity, it shall be presumed in any proceedings for an offence under this Part, unless the court is satisfied to the contrary—

- (a) that the petroleum products are in the person's possession, custody or control for sale; and
- (b) that the person is carrying on petroleum wholesaling.

## (5) Section 36A—

After section 36, insert:

**Change of particulars to be notified**

36A. If a change occurs in any of the particulars referred to in section 36 in respect of a licence, the licensee shall, within 7 days after the change occurs, notify the Chief Commissioner in writing giving details of the change.

Penalty: \$2,000.

## (6) Section 39—

Omit the section, insert instead:

**Renewal of licence**

39. (1) If, on or before the expiry of a licence, the licensee pays to the Chief Commissioner the fee payable for a further licence, the licensee—

- (a) shall be taken to have applied for a further such licence; and

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(b) shall be taken to have been granted the licence, with effect from the expiration of the person's current licence.

(2) If the fee payable for a further licence is paid after the expiry of a licence, the Chief Commissioner may direct in writing that the payment be accepted and regarded as having been made immediately before the expiry of the licence concerned.

(3) The Chief Commissioner's direction has effect accordingly.

(4) The Chief Commissioner may demand and receive an amount by way of a penalty (but not more than twice the fee payable for the further licence) as a condition precedent to giving a direction under subsection (2).

(5) This section does not prevent—

(a) the cancellation or surrender of a licence under another provision of this Act; or

(b) the operation of section 46 or 47 in relation to a person if the Chief Commissioner decides not to act under this section in relation to the person.

(7) Part 6, Division 1, heading:

Before section 49, insert:

**Division 1—Licences**

(8) Part 6, Division 2—

Omit sections 50–52, insert instead:

**Division 2—Fee assessments**

**Objection to assessment**

50. (1) A person who is dissatisfied with an assessment under this Act may within 60 days after the issue of the notice of assessment object to the assessment.

(2) An objection is made by lodging with the Chief Commissioner a statement in writing specifying fully and in detail the grounds of the objection.

**Applications for extension of time**

51. (1) A person may apply to the Chief Commissioner for an extension of the time for lodging an objection and may do so even though the time for lodging an objection has expired.

(2) The application must be in writing and be lodged with the Chief Commissioner.

(3) The Chief Commissioner shall consider the application and may grant it for reasonable cause shown or may refuse it.

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(4) If dissatisfied with the Chief Commissioner's decision on the application, the person may apply to the Tribunal for the extension of time and the Tribunal may grant it for reasonable cause shown or may refuse it.

(5) Such an application to the Tribunal shall be made, heard and determined in the prescribed manner.

**Determination of objection**

52. (1) The Chief Commissioner shall consider any objection and may—

- (a) allow the objection wholly or in part and appropriately modify the assessment to which it relates by way of a reassessment under section 45; or
- (b) disallow the objection and confirm the assessment to which it relates.

(2) When a decision is made on an objection, the Chief Commissioner shall inform the objector in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

(3) To the extent that an objection is determined in favour of the objector, the Chief Commissioner shall refund the amount of any overpayment of the licence fee.

**Appeal etc. against decision on objection**

52A. (1) An objector dissatisfied with the decision of the Chief Commissioner on an objection—

- (a) may request the Chief Commissioner to refer the decision to the Tribunal for review; or
- (b) may request the Chief Commissioner to approve in writing of an appeal by the objector to the Supreme Court against the decision.

(2) Such a request must be in writing and be lodged with the Chief Commissioner within 30 days (or such longer period as the Chief Commissioner may allow for reasonable cause shown) after the objector is informed under section 52 of the Chief Commissioner's decision on the objection.

(3) If the Chief Commissioner does not comply with a request under subsection (1) (a) or (b) within 60 days after it is made and the objector—

- (a) has provided the Chief Commissioner with any information required by the Chief Commissioner in relation to the assessment concerned; and



**SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued***

- (b) lodges with the Chief Commissioner a notice in writing requiring the Chief Commissioner to comply with the request,

the Chief Commissioner shall comply with the request not later than 30 days after the notice is lodged.

- (4) The objector may appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision within 14 days after the Chief Commissioner grants approval under this section to the appeal.

**Review by Tribunal**

52B. (1) A review by the Tribunal shall be heard and determined in the prescribed manner.

(2) When the Tribunal makes its decision, it shall inform the objector in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

(3) The parties to a review before the Tribunal shall each bear their own costs.

**Appeal from decision of Tribunal**

52C. If dissatisfied with the decision of the Tribunal, the objector or the Chief Commissioner may appeal to the Supreme Court within 60 days (or such longer period as the Tribunal may allow for reasonable cause shown) after being informed of the decision.

**Nature of review and appeal**

52D. (1) A review by the Tribunal or an appeal to the Supreme Court under this Division is by way of rehearing of the original objection to the Chief Commissioner and is limited to the grounds of the original objection.

(2) On giving its decision, the Tribunal or the Court may determine the amount of any fee payable as a result of the decision (including any additional or penalty fee).

(3) Part 5 applies to the Tribunal's or the Court's assessment of a fee in the same way as that Part applies to the assessment of a fee by the Chief Commissioner.

**Onus on objector**

52E. On an objection, review or appeal under this Division, the objector concerned bears the onus of establishing on the balance of probabilities that the licence fee in question was incorrectly assessed.

**SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—continued****Payment of fee assessed by Tribunal or Supreme Court**

52F. (1) If the fee assessed by the Tribunal or the Supreme Court under this Division—

- (a) is greater than the amount paid by the objector, the objector is liable to pay the difference; or
- (b) is less than the amount paid by the objector, the Chief Commissioner shall refund the difference to the objector, together with interest at the prescribed rate.

(2) Interest payable under subsection (1) (b) is payable from the date on which the amount concerned was paid by the objector until the date it is refunded.

**Liability not affected by objection etc.**

52G. (1) Except to the extent otherwise permitted by the Chief Commissioner, the lodging of an objection, the referral of an objection to the Tribunal or an appeal to the Supreme Court does not affect any liability of an objector to pay a fee in accordance with this Act.

(2) A permission under subsection (1) must be in writing.

**Lodgment with Chief Commissioner**

52H. For the purposes of this Division, something is lodged with the Chief Commissioner by being addressed to the Chief Commissioner and lodged at or sent by post to any office of the Chief Commissioner.

**Assessment includes reassessment**

52I. In this Division, "assessment" includes reassessment, but the right of a person to object against a reassessment is limited to a right to object against the particular alterations or additions made as a result of the reassessment.

(9) Part 8, Division 1, heading—

Before section 56, insert:

**Division 1—Duties etc. of transporters**

(10) Section 56 (Transportation records)—

(a) Section 56 (2)—

After "The record shall", insert "be in writing and".

(b) Section 56 (2) (b1)—

After section 56 (2) (b), insert:

(b1) the name and address of the person who owns the petroleum products;

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

- (c) Section 56 (2) (f)—  
Omit the paragraph, insert instead:  
(f) the name and address of the person (if any) who has agreed to purchase the petroleum products.
- (d) Section 56 (5)—  
Omit the subsection.
- (e) Section 56 (6)—  
After “produce a record,” insert “fails to produce a record or”.
- (f) Section 56 (6)—  
Omit “\$1,000”, insert instead “\$2,000”.
- (11) Section 57 (**Temporary custody**)—  
(a) Section 57 (1) (a)—  
Omit the paragraph, insert instead:  
(a) does not produce a record referred to in section 56 as required under that section; or  
(b) Section 57 (1) (b)—  
Omit “or furnishes particulars”.
- (12) Section 58—  
Omit the section, insert instead:  
**Petroleum products in custody dealt with under Division 2**  
58. Petroleum products taken into custody under section 57 shall be retained in custody and shall be dealt with in accordance with Division 2.
- (13) Part 8, Division 2—  
After section 58, insert:  
**Division 2—Forfeiture of petroleum products in custody**  
**Definition**  
58A. In this Division—  
“seized petroleum products” means petroleum products taken into custody under section 58.  
**Chief Commissioner to invite claims for seized petroleum products**  
58B. (1) Within 21 days after petroleum products are taken into custody under Division 1, the Chief Commissioner shall publish a notice in relation to the petroleum products in a newspaper circulating generally in the State.



**SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—continued**

(2) The notice shall invite any person who claims to be entitled to the petroleum products to make a claim for them by a date specified in the notice, being a date not less than 30 days after publication of the notice.

(3) To be considered as having been duly made, the claim—

- (a) must be in writing; and
- (b) must be made by being lodged at or sent by post to any office of the Chief Commissioner; and
- (c) must be received by the Chief Commissioner by the required date specified in the notice.

(4) The notice inviting claims must also draw attention to the duty of a claimant under section 58c (transportation record).

**Claimant must lodge transportation record**

58c. (1) A person who makes a claim for seized petroleum products must furnish to the Chief Commissioner a correct record containing the particulars specified in section 56 (2) (as applicable to the particular petroleum products claimed when they were taken into custody).

(2) If the claimant does not furnish the record, the Chief Commissioner may refuse to consider the claim and may reject it.

(3) If the Chief Commissioner rejects a claim under this section, the Chief Commissioner shall inform the claimant in writing.

**Request for particulars etc. from claimant**

58d. (1) If a claim for seized petroleum products is duly made, the Chief Commissioner may request the claimant in writing to do either or both of the following things within a specified period of not less than 14 days:

- (a) to produce to the Chief Commissioner for inspection any records and documents in the custody or under the control of the claimant relating to the purchase of the petroleum products by the claimant;
- (b) to produce a statement in writing in the English language setting out details of the source of funds or finance, and the mode of payment, used or proposed to be used in the purchase of the petroleum products by the claimant.

(2) The provisions of section 53 (3)–(5) apply to any such records, documents and statements in the same way as those provisions apply to records, statements and documents under that section.



SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(3) This section does not affect the operation of section 53 (access to premises, records etc.).

**Decision on claim**

58E. (1) If a claim for seized petroleum products is duly made, the Chief Commissioner shall (unless the claim has been rejected under section 58C) consider the claim and may decide—

- (a) to accept the claim wholly or in part; or
- (b) to reject the claim.

(2) When a decision is made on a claim, the Chief Commissioner shall inform the claimant in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

(3) The Chief Commissioner may deliver seized petroleum products to a person to the extent that the person's claim is accepted by the Chief Commissioner.

**Chief Commissioner may seek declaration**

58F. The Chief Commissioner may seek an appropriate declaration from the Supreme Court to assist the Chief Commissioner in making a decision under section 58E.

**Realisation of value of seized petroleum products when claims rejected**

58G. (1) If the Chief Commissioner has rejected all claims duly made for particular seized petroleum products, the Chief Commissioner may, if the Chief Commissioner thinks it appropriate to do so in the circumstances of the case, apply to the Supreme Court for an order under this section for disposal of the petroleum products.

(2) The Court may, if it thinks fit, require the Chief Commissioner to give notice of the application to a person who the Court has reason to believe has an interest in the petroleum products concerned.

(3) A person who has duly made a claim in respect of the petroleum products concerned is entitled to appear and to adduce evidence at the hearing of the application.

(4) On an application under this section, the Court—

- (a) may, by order, empower the Chief Commissioner to sell the petroleum products in such manner and subject to such directions, if any, as the Court may specify, and to pay the proceeds of sale into Court; or

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

- (b) at the request of any person appearing to the Court to have an interest in the petroleum products, may—
  - (i) fix the value of the person's interest in the petroleum products for the purposes of an order under subparagraph (ii); and
  - (ii) order the Chief Commissioner, on payment into Court by that person of an amount equal to the value of the interest so fixed, to deliver petroleum products, having a value equal to that amount, to that person.

**Application to Supreme Court by dissatisfied claimant**

58H. (1) If a claim is duly made for seized petroleum products and—

- (a) the claimant is dissatisfied with the Chief Commissioner's decision on the claim; or
- (b) the Chief Commissioner has not given a decision on the claim within 1 month after it was made,

the claimant may apply to the Supreme Court for an order as to whether the claimant is entitled to the petroleum products concerned (or the liquidated value of the petroleum products paid into Court).

(2) The application to the Court may be made only—

- (a) within 2 months after the claimant is notified by the Chief Commissioner of the decision on the claim; or
- (b) if the Chief Commissioner has not given a decision on the claim within 1 month after the claim was made—within 3 months after the claim was made.

(3) If more than one application is made to the Court under this section in relation to particular petroleum products or money, the applications shall be heard and determined together unless the Court otherwise orders.

**Chief Commissioner may appear etc. on application**

58I. (1) The Chief Commissioner is entitled to appear and adduce evidence at the hearing of an application to the Supreme Court under section 58H.

(2) Without limiting the evidence that may be adduced by the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner—

- (a) may adduce evidence that the applicant failed to comply with a request under section 58D and the Court is entitled to draw such inferences from the failure as appear to be warranted in the circumstances; and



SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

- (b) may adduce evidence of the contents of any records, documents and statements produced by the claimant under that section.

**Grounds on which application must be dismissed**

58J. (1) On the application of the Chief Commissioner, the Supreme Court shall dismiss a claimant's application under section 65H if the Court is satisfied that—

- (a) the claimant has failed to furnish to the Chief Commissioner the record required by section 58c; or  
 (b) the claimant has failed to prosecute the application with all due diligence.

(2) If the Chief Commissioner makes application as referred to in subsection (1) (a), the claimant bears the onus of satisfying the Court that the claimant has furnished to the Chief Commissioner the record required by section 58c.

**Forfeiture etc. of seized petroleum products**

58K. (1) The Chief Commissioner may order that seized petroleum products be forfeited to the Crown if satisfied that—

- (a) no claim for the seized petroleum products has been duly made; or  
 (b) all claims duly made for the seized petroleum products have been unsuccessful.

(2) A claim for seized petroleum products shall be regarded as being unsuccessful if—

- (a) the Chief Commissioner has rejected the claim; and  
 (b) any application to the Supreme Court by the claimant under section 65H in respect of the claim has been disposed of; and  
 (c) the Supreme Court has not ordered on such an application that a person is entitled to the petroleum products.

(3) An order that petroleum products be forfeited to the Crown must be published in the Gazette and operates, on its publication, to forfeit the petroleum products to the Crown but may be revoked by the Chief Commissioner by a further order in writing.

(4) A reference in this section to seized petroleum products includes a reference to the liquidated value of seized petroleum products paid into Court under section 58G, in which case the Chief Commissioner's order is sufficient authority for the payment of that liquidated value out of Court to the Crown.

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued***Power to dispose of forfeited petroleum products**

58L. The Chief Commissioner may dispose of forfeited petroleum products on behalf of the Crown in such manner as the Chief Commissioner thinks fit, including by destroying them.

**No action against Chief Commissioner**

58M. No proceedings shall be taken against the Chief Commissioner as a consequence of—

- (a) the release of any petroleum products (or their liquidated value paid into Court) to a person; or
- (b) the forfeiture of any petroleum products (or their liquidated value paid into Court); or
- (c) the destruction of any petroleum products,

in accordance with this Division.

**Extension of time by Chief Commissioner**

58N. The Chief Commissioner may extend and further extend the time for making a claim for seized petroleum products or an application to the Supreme Court under this Division.

(14) Section 67 (**Evidence of matters certified**)—

Omit “under this Act or the regulations”.

(15) Section 68 (**Notices of assessment**)—

Section 68 (1)—

Omit “In any proceedings under this Act or the regulations or for the recovery of any amount due and payable under this Act or the regulations”, insert instead “In any proceedings”.

## (16) Section 69A—

After section 69, insert:

**Alternative verdict—Part 4**

69A. If in proceedings against a person for an offence under Part 4 the court is not satisfied that the person contravened the provision concerned but is satisfied that the act or omission concerned constituted a contravention by the person of another provision of Part 4, the court may convict the person of an offence under that other provision.

*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

## (17) Section 72A—

After section 72, insert:

**Set off by Chief Commissioner**

72A. (1) If a person has a liability under this Act to pay an amount to the Chief Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner also has a liability under this Act to pay an amount to the person—

- (a) the Chief Commissioner may, instead of paying the person, pay an amount in discharge of the person's liability under this Act; and
- (b) to the extent of any such payment by the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner's liability to the person, and the person's liability under this Act, are discharged.

(2) A reference in subsection (1) to a liability under this Act is a reference to a liability under, by virtue of or in connection with the administration of this Act or the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1982 (whether by way of licence fees, interest, penalties, refunds, judgment debts or costs, or otherwise).

(3) This section does not affect any other right of the Chief Commissioner to set off.

(18) Schedule 3 (**Savings and transitional provisions**)—

Clauses 7, 8—

After clause 6, insert:

*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989*

**Petroleum products in custody**

7. (1) Part 8, as amended by the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989, applies to petroleum products taken into custody under that Part whether before or after the commencement of section 58B.

(2) For the purposes of the application of that Part (as so amended) to any such petroleum products, the petroleum products shall be regarded as having been taken into custody on the commencement of section 58B.

**Pending objections**

8. (1) In this clause—

“former appeal provisions” means the provisions of Part 6 as in force immediately before the commencement of section 52A;



*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*

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SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

“new appeal provisions” means the provisions of Part 6, as amended by the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989.

(2) An objection made under the former appeal provisions before the commencement of the new appeal provisions shall be dealt with as an objection under the new appeal provisions unless subclause (3) otherwise provides.

(3) Subclause (2) does not apply to an objection made under the former appeal provisions if an appeal to the Tribunal in respect of the objection has been made and determined before, or is out of time on, the commencement of the new appeal provisions.

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[*Minister's second reading speech made in—  
Legislative Assembly on 3 May 1989  
Legislative Council on 23 May 1989*]









**BUSINESS FRANCHISE LICENCES (PETROLEUM  
PRODUCTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1989**

NEW SOUTH WALES



**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**(This Explanatory Note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament)**

This Bill is cognate with the Business Franchise Licences (Tobacco) Amendment Bill 1989.

The object of this Bill is to amend the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987—

- (a) to provide a procedure whereby petroleum products that are taken into custody because they are being transported without the appropriate transportation record required by the Act can be forfeited to the Crown unless the correct transportation record is provided;
- (b) to require a transportation record to be in writing and to clarify the details that it must provide;
- (c) to create the offence of failing to produce the required transportation record;
- (d) to insert a definition of “diesel fuel”;
- (e) to update provisions concerning objections and appeals against the Chief Commissioner’s assessment of licence fees and to provide for an appeal to the Supreme Court;
- (f) to clarify the operation of a provision that deems certain sales of petroleum products made outside the State to have been made in the State;
- (g) to extend the meaning of “sell” in the context of certain offences under the Act to include, among other things, have in possession, custody or control for sale;
- (h) to revise the provision dealing with the presumption that possession of commercial quantities of petroleum products gives rise to, so that a person possessing a commercial quantity shall be presumed to possess it for sale and to be in the business of petroleum wholesaling;
- (i) to make it an offence with a maximum penalty of \$2,000 for a licensee under the Act to fail to inform the Chief Commissioner of a change in the particulars of the licensee;

*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*

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- (j) to provide that the Chief Commissioner may elect to excuse late payment of a licence fee, such a payment then being regarded as having been made on time;
- (k) to clarify the evidentiary effect of notices of assessment and certificates issued under the Act;
- (l) to authorise a court to convict a person of an offence under the Act even though it is not the offence for which the person is prosecuted;
- (m) to authorise the Chief Commissioner to set off amounts payable by a person under the Act (such as licence fees) against any amount (including damages) that the Chief Commissioner may be liable to pay the person under the Act;
- (n) to make other minor or consequential amendments and to enact transitional provisions.

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**Clause 1** specifies the short title of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides that the proposed Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

**Clause 3** gives effect to the Schedule of amendments to the Principal Act.

#### SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS

##### **Transportation records and forfeiture of seized petroleum products**

Schedule 1 (11), (12) and (13) enact provisions under which petroleum products that are seized because they are transported without the required transportation record can be forfeited to the Crown. Currently such petroleum products are held until the required record is produced.

Under the new provisions, the Chief Commissioner will publish a newspaper notice inviting claims by persons who are entitled to the seized petroleum products. A claimant must furnish the correct transportation record or the claim can be rejected. Claims will then be considered and the petroleum products returned to the person entitled to them (so long as the correct transportation record is furnished). A person dissatisfied with the Chief Commissioner's decision can apply to the Supreme Court. If no claim is made or all claims are unsuccessful, the Chief Commissioner can forfeit the petroleum products to the Crown.

Schedule 1 (10) requires the transportation record to be in writing and requires that it state (in addition to the matters currently required to be stated) the name and address of the product's owner and of the person who has agreed to buy it. It will also be an offence (maximum penalty \$2,000) to fail to produce the required transportation record on demand.

##### **Objections and appeals**

Schedule 1 (8) updates provisions dealing with objections and appeals against licence fee assessments under the Act. Currently, a person can object to the Chief Commissioner against an assessment and then appeal to the Business Franchise Licence Fees (Petroleum Products) Appeals Tribunal if dissatisfied with the decision on the objection.



*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*

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Under the new provisions, the time within which an objection can be lodged is increased from 1 month to 60 days and there is provision for this time limit to be extended for reasonable cause. A dissatisfied objector can appeal to the Tribunal (as is currently the case) or can appeal directly to the Supreme Court. In either case the appeal cannot proceed unless the objector has given the Chief Commissioner the information requested in connection with the matter. Following an appeal to the Tribunal, either the appellant or the Chief Commissioner can appeal to the Supreme Court if dissatisfied with the Tribunal's decision. If the objector is successful before the Tribunal or the Supreme Court, the Chief Commissioner is required to pay interest on any licence fee that was overpaid.

**Sales outside the State**

Schedule 1 (1) (b) substitutes the provision dealing with sales of petroleum products made outside the State. Under the new provision a sale made outside the State will be considered to have been made in the State if it is made in the course of petroleum wholesaling or retailing and the terms of sale require or contemplate delivery into or within the State.

**Extended meaning of sell**

Schedule 1 (3) inserts a definition that extends the meaning of "sell" in the context of offences concerning sales of petroleum products by unlicensed persons. The term will include, among other things, have in possession, custody or control for sale and send, forward, deliver or receive for sale.

**Possession of commercial quantities**

Schedule 1 (4) requires it to be presumed that a person who has possession, custody or control of a commercial quantity of petroleum products has them for sale and is carrying on petroleum wholesaling. The current provision requires only that the person be presumed to have them in possession for sale.

**Failure to notify changed particulars**

Schedule 1 (5) makes it an offence for a licensee to fail to inform the Chief Commissioner of a change in such matters as the address of the licensee's place of business and the name of the licensee's supplier. The maximum penalty will be \$2,000. Currently a failure to notify results in the licensee not being granted a new licence.

**Late payment of licence fees**

Schedule 1 (6) allows the Chief Commissioner to accept late payment of a licence fee so that late payment will not result in the licensee being unlicensed. The Chief Commissioner may charge a penalty fee for late payment up to twice the licence fee owing.

**Evidentiary matters**

Schedule 1 (14) and (15) make it clear that evidentiary certificates and notices of assessment issued under the Act are evidence in any proceedings (not just proceedings under the Act, as at present).

**Alternative verdicts**

Schedule 1 (16) provides that, in a prosecution for an offence concerning the sale of petroleum products by an unlicensed person, the court can convict for a different offence if satisfied that the other offence has been committed (even though it might not be satisfied that the actual offence charged has been committed).

*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*

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**Set off by Chief Commissioner**

Schedule 1 (17) authorises the Chief Commissioner to discharge any liability of the Chief Commissioner to a person in connection with petroleum products licensing (for example, a liability to pay damages) by discharging any liability of the person to pay licence fees and other amounts payable under the Act.

**Definition of "diesel fuel"**

Schedule 1 (1) (a) inserts a definition of diesel fuel to make it clear that the Act applies to all diesel related products.

**Transitional provisions**

Schedule 1 (18) inserts transitional provisions consequent on the proposed Act. The new provisions for the forfeiture of seized petroleum products to the Crown will apply to petroleum products already in custody when the proposed provisions commence. The new objection and appeal provisions will apply to an objection made before they commenced unless an appeal to the Tribunal in respect of the objection has already been determined or is out of time.

**Minor and consequential amendments**

Schedule 1 (2), (7) and (9) make minor or consequential amendments.

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# BUSINESS FRANCHISE LICENCES (PETROLEUM PRODUCTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1989

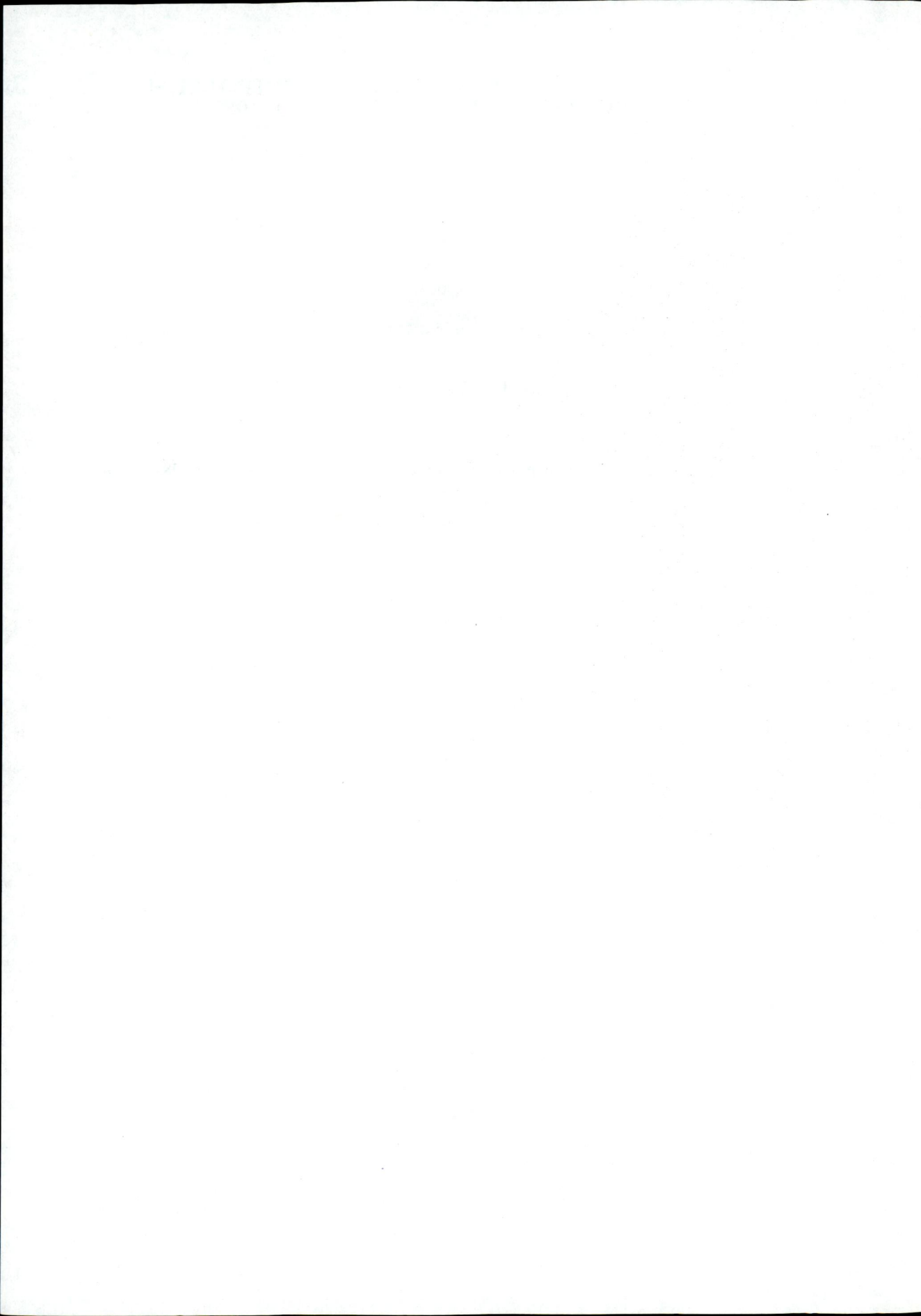
NEW SOUTH WALES



## TABLE OF PROVISIONS

1. Short title
  2. Commencement
  3. Amendment of Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 No. 94
- SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS
-





**BUSINESS FRANCHISE LICENCES (PETROLEUM  
PRODUCTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1989**

NEW SOUTH WALES



No. , 1989

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**A BILL FOR**

An Act to amend the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 to make further provision in relation to the enforcement of that Act, appeals and recovery of licence fees; and for other purposes.

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*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*

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**The Legislature of New South Wales enacts:**

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989.

**5 Commencement**

2. This Act commences on a day or days to be appointed by proclamation.

**Amendment of Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987  
No. 94**

10 3. The Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1987 is amended as set out in Schedule 1.

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**SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS**

(Sec. 3)

(1) Section 3 (**Interpretation**)—

15 (a) Section 3 (1)—

After the definition of “Chief Commissioner”, insert:

“diesel fuel” means a petroleum or shale product used or capable of being used in propelling a diesel engined road vehicle;

20 (b) Section 3 (4)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:

(4) A sale of petroleum products made outside New South Wales in the course of petroleum wholesaling or petroleum retailing shall for the purposes of this Act be regarded as having been made in New South Wales if the terms (whether express or implied) of the sale or of any contract for the sale—

25 (a) require either party to deliver, or arrange delivery of, the petroleum products into or within New South Wales; or

30 (b) contemplate delivery of the petroleum products into or within New South Wales.

(2) Section 6 (**Application of Act to intrastate trade**)—

Section 6 (2)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:

35 (2) Nothing in this section affects the operation of section 31 of the Interpretation Act 1987.

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

## (3) Section 27A—

Before section 28, insert:

**Expanded meaning of “sell”**

27A. In this Part—

5 “sell” includes the following:

- (a) barter and exchange;
- (b) deal in, agree to sell, or offer or expose for sale;
- (c) have in possession, custody or control for sale;
- (d) send, forward, deliver or receive for sale or on sale;
- 10 (e) authorise, direct, cause, suffer, permit or attempt any of those acts or things.

## (4) Section 32—

Omit the section, insert instead:

**Possession of commercial quantities—presumptions**

15 32. If petroleum products in a person’s possession, custody or control are stored in a tank (whether or not mounted on a vehicle) having a capacity that exceeds the prescribed quantity, it shall be presumed in any proceedings for an offence under this Part, unless the court is satisfied to the contrary—

- 20 (a) that the petroleum products are in the person’s possession, custody or control for sale; and
- (b) that the person is carrying on petroleum wholesaling.

## (5) Section 36A—

After section 36, insert:

**Change of particulars to be notified**

36A. If a change occurs in any of the particulars referred to in section 36 in respect of a licence, the licensee shall, within 7 days after the change occurs, notify the Chief Commissioner in writing giving details of the change.

30 Penalty: \$2,000.

## (6) Section 39—

Omit the section, insert instead:

**Renewal of licence**

35 39. (1) If, on or before the expiry of a licence, the licensee pays to the Chief Commissioner the fee payable for a further licence, the licensee—

- (a) shall be taken to have applied for a further such licence; and

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(b) shall be taken to have been granted the licence, with effect from the expiration of the person's current licence.

(2) If the fee payable for a further licence is paid after the expiry of a licence, the Chief Commissioner may direct in writing that the payment be accepted and regarded as having been made immediately before the expiry of the licence concerned.

(3) The Chief Commissioner's direction has effect accordingly.

(4) The Chief Commissioner may demand and receive an amount by way of a penalty (but not more than twice the fee payable for the further licence) as a condition precedent to giving a direction under subsection (2).

(5) This section does not prevent—

(a) the cancellation or surrender of a licence under another provision of this Act; or

(b) the operation of section 46 or 47 in relation to a person if the Chief Commissioner decides not to act under this section in relation to the person.

(7) Part 6, Division 1, heading:

Before section 49, insert:

**Division 1—Licences**

(8) Part 6, Division 2—

Omit sections 50–52, insert instead:

**Division 2—Fee assessments**

**Objection to assessment**

50. (1) A person who is dissatisfied with an assessment under this Act may within 60 days after the issue of the notice of assessment object to the assessment.

(2) An objection is made by lodging with the Chief Commissioner a statement in writing specifying fully and in detail the grounds of the objection.

**Applications for extension of time**

51. (1) A person may apply to the Chief Commissioner for an extension of the time for lodging an objection and may do so even though the time for lodging an objection has expired.

(2) The application must be in writing and be lodged with the Chief Commissioner.

(3) The Chief Commissioner shall consider the application and may grant it for reasonable cause shown or may refuse it.



SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(4) If dissatisfied with the Chief Commissioner's decision on the application, the person may apply to the Tribunal for the extension of time and the Tribunal may grant it for reasonable cause shown or may refuse it.

5 (5) Such an application to the Tribunal shall be made, heard and determined in the prescribed manner.

**Determination of objection**

52. (1) The Chief Commissioner shall consider any objection and may—

- 10 (a) allow the objection wholly or in part and appropriately modify the assessment to which it relates by way of a reassessment under section 45; or
- (b) disallow the objection and confirm the assessment to which it relates.

15 (2) When a decision is made on an objection, the Chief Commissioner shall inform the objector in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

20 (3) To the extent that an objection is determined in favour of the objector, the Chief Commissioner shall refund the amount of any overpayment of the licence fee.

**Appeal etc. against decision on objection**

52A. (1) An objector dissatisfied with the decision of the Chief Commissioner on an objection—

- 25 (a) may request the Chief Commissioner to refer the decision to the Tribunal for review; or
- (b) may request the Chief Commissioner to approve in writing of an appeal by the objector to the Supreme Court against the decision.

30 (2) Such a request must be in writing and be lodged with the Chief Commissioner within 30 days (or such longer period as the Chief Commissioner may allow for reasonable cause shown) after the objector is informed under section 52 of the Chief Commissioner's decision on the objection.

35 (3) If the Chief Commissioner does not comply with a request under subsection (1) (a) or (b) within 60 days after it is made and the objector—

- (a) has provided the Chief Commissioner with any information required by the Chief Commissioner in relation to the assessment concerned; and

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(b) lodges with the Chief Commissioner a notice in writing requiring the Chief Commissioner to comply with the request,

5 the Chief Commissioner shall comply with the request not later than 30 days after the notice is lodged.

(4) The objector may appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision within 14 days after the Chief Commissioner grants approval under this section to the appeal.

**Review by Tribunal**

10 52B. (1) A review by the Tribunal shall be heard and determined in the prescribed manner.

(2) When the Tribunal makes its decision, it shall inform the objector in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

15 (3) The parties to a review before the Tribunal shall each bear their own costs.

**Appeal from decision of Tribunal**

20 52C. If dissatisfied with the decision of the Tribunal, the objector or the Chief Commissioner may appeal to the Supreme Court within 60 days (or such longer period as the Tribunal may allow for reasonable cause shown) after being informed of the decision.

**Nature of review and appeal**

25 52D. (1) A review by the Tribunal or an appeal to the Supreme Court under this Division is by way of rehearing of the original objection to the Chief Commissioner and is limited to the grounds of the original objection.

(2) On giving its decision, the Tribunal or the Court may determine the amount of any fee payable as a result of the decision (including any additional or penalty fee).

30 (3) Part 5 applies to the Tribunal's or the Court's assessment of a fee in the same way as that Part applies to the assessment of a fee by the Chief Commissioner.

**Onus on objector**

35 52E. On an objection, review or appeal under this Division, the objector concerned bears the onus of establishing on the balance of probabilities that the licence fee in question was incorrectly assessed.



SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued***Payment of fee assessed by Tribunal or Supreme Court**

52F. (1) If the fee assessed by the Tribunal or the Supreme Court under this Division—

- 5 (a) is greater than the amount paid by the objector, the objector is liable to pay the difference; or
- (b) is less than the amount paid by the objector, the Chief Commissioner shall refund the difference to the objector, together with interest at the prescribed rate.

10 (2) Interest payable under subsection (1) (b) is payable from the date on which the amount concerned was paid by the objector until the date it is refunded.

**Liability not affected by objection etc.**

15 52G. (1) Except to the extent otherwise permitted by the Chief Commissioner, the lodging of an objection, the referral of an objection to the Tribunal or an appeal to the Supreme Court does not affect any liability of an objector to pay a fee in accordance with this Act.

(2) A permission under subsection (1) must be in writing.

**Lodgment with Chief Commissioner**

20 52H. For the purposes of this Division, something is lodged with the Chief Commissioner by being addressed to the Chief Commissioner and lodged at or sent by post to any office of the Chief Commissioner.

**Assessment includes reassessment**

25 52i. In this Division, “assessment” includes reassessment, but the right of a person to object against a reassessment is limited to a right to object against the particular alterations or additions made as a result of the reassessment.

(9) Part 8, Division 1, heading—

30 Before section 56, insert:

**Division 1—Duties etc. of transporters**

(10) Section 56 (**Transportation records**)—

(a) Section 56 (2)—

After “The record shall”, insert “be in writing and”.

35 (b) Section 56 (2) (b1)—

After section 56 (2) (b), insert:

(b1) the name and address of the person who owns the petroleum products;

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(c) Section 56 (2) (f)—

Omit the paragraph, insert instead:

(f) the name and address of the person (if any) who has agreed to purchase the petroleum products.

5 (d) Section 56 (5)—

Omit the subsection.

(e) Section 56 (6)—

After “produce a record,” insert “fails to produce a record or”.

(f) Section 56 (6)—

10 Omit “\$1,000”, insert instead “\$2,000”.

(11) Section 57 (**Temporary custody**)—

(a) Section 57 (1) (a)—

Omit the paragraph, insert instead:

15 (a) does not produce a record referred to in section 56 as required under that section; or

(b) Section 57 (1) (b)—

Omit “or furnishes particulars”.

(12) Section 58—

Omit the section, insert instead:

20 **Petroleum products in custody dealt with under Division 2**

58. Petroleum products taken into custody under section 57 shall be retained in custody and shall be dealt with in accordance with Division 2.

(13) Part 8, Division 2—

25 After section 58, insert:

**Division 2—Forfeiture of petroleum products in custody**

**Definition**

58A. In this Division—

30 “seized petroleum products” means petroleum products taken into custody under section 58.

**Chief Commissioner to invite claims for seized petroleum products**

35 58B. (1) Within 21 days after petroleum products are taken into custody under Division 1, the Chief Commissioner shall publish a notice in relation to the petroleum products in a newspaper circulating generally in the State.

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(2) The notice shall invite any person who claims to be entitled to the petroleum products to make a claim for them by a date specified in the notice, being a date not less than 30 days after publication of the notice.

5 (3) To be considered as having been duly made, the claim—

(a) must be in writing; and

(b) must be made by being lodged at or sent by post to any office of the Chief Commissioner; and

10 (c) must be received by the Chief Commissioner by the required date specified in the notice.

(4) The notice inviting claims must also draw attention to the duty of a claimant under section 58C (transportation record).

**Claimant must lodge transportation record**

15 58C. (1) A person who makes a claim for seized petroleum products must furnish to the Chief Commissioner a correct record containing the particulars specified in section 56 (2) (as applicable to the particular petroleum products claimed when they were taken into custody).

20 (2) If the claimant does not furnish the record, the Chief Commissioner may refuse to consider the claim and may reject it.

(3) If the Chief Commissioner rejects a claim under this section, the Chief Commissioner shall inform the claimant in writing.

25 **Request for particulars etc. from claimant**

58D. (1) If a claim for seized petroleum products is duly made, the Chief Commissioner may request the claimant in writing to do either or both of the following things within a specified period of not less than 14 days:

30 (a) to produce to the Chief Commissioner for inspection any records and documents in the custody or under the control of the claimant relating to the purchase of the petroleum products by the claimant;

35 (b) to produce a statement in writing in the English language setting out details of the source of funds or finance, and the mode of payment, used or proposed to be used in the purchase of the petroleum products by the claimant.

40 (2) The provisions of section 53 (3)–(5) apply to any such records, documents and statements in the same way as those provisions apply to records, statements and documents under that section.



SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(3) This section does not affect the operation of section 53 (access to premises, records etc.).

**Decision on claim**

58E. (1) If a claim for seized petroleum products is duly made, the Chief Commissioner shall (unless the claim has been rejected under section 58C) consider the claim and may decide—

- (a) to accept the claim wholly or in part; or
- (b) to reject the claim.

(2) When a decision is made on a claim, the Chief Commissioner shall inform the claimant in writing of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

(3) The Chief Commissioner may deliver seized petroleum products to a person to the extent that the person's claim is accepted by the Chief Commissioner.

**Chief Commissioner may seek declaration**

58F. The Chief Commissioner may seek an appropriate declaration from the Supreme Court to assist the Chief Commissioner in making a decision under section 58E.

**Realisation of value of seized petroleum products when claims rejected**

58G. (1) If the Chief Commissioner has rejected all claims duly made for particular seized petroleum products, the Chief Commissioner may, if the Chief Commissioner thinks it appropriate to do so in the circumstances of the case, apply to the Supreme Court for an order under this section for disposal of the petroleum products.

(2) The Court may, if it thinks fit, require the Chief Commissioner to give notice of the application to a person who the Court has reason to believe has an interest in the petroleum products concerned.

(3) A person who has duly made a claim in respect of the petroleum products concerned is entitled to appear and to adduce evidence at the hearing of the application.

(4) On an application under this section, the Court—

- (a) may, by order, empower the Chief Commissioner to sell the petroleum products in such manner and subject to such directions, if any, as the Court may specify, and to pay the proceeds of sale into Court; or

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

(b) at the request of any person appearing to the Court to have an interest in the petroleum products, may—

- 5 (i) fix the value of the person's interest in the petroleum products for the purposes of an order under subparagraph (ii); and
- (ii) order the Chief Commissioner, on payment into Court by that person of an amount equal to the value of the interest so fixed, to deliver petroleum products, having a value equal to that amount, to that person.

10 **Application to Supreme Court by dissatisfied claimant**

58H. (1) If a claim is duly made for seized petroleum products and—

- (a) the claimant is dissatisfied with the Chief Commissioner's decision on the claim; or
- 15 (b) the Chief Commissioner has not given a decision on the claim within 1 month after it was made,

the claimant may apply to the Supreme Court for an order as to whether the claimant is entitled to the petroleum products concerned (or the liquidated value of the petroleum products paid into Court).

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(2) The application to the Court may be made only—

- (a) within 2 months after the claimant is notified by the Chief Commissioner of the decision on the claim; or
- 25 (b) if the Chief Commissioner has not given a decision on the claim within 1 month after the claim was made—within 3 months after the claim was made.

(3) If more than one application is made to the Court under this section in relation to particular petroleum products or money, the applications shall be heard and determined together unless the Court otherwise orders.

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**Chief Commissioner may appear etc. on application**

58I. (1) The Chief Commissioner is entitled to appear and adduce evidence at the hearing of an application to the Supreme Court under section 58H.

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(2) Without limiting the evidence that may be adduced by the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner—

- (a) may adduce evidence that the applicant failed to comply with a request under section 58D and the Court is entitled to draw such inferences from the failure as appear to be warranted in the circumstances; and
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SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

- (b) may adduce evidence of the contents of any records, documents and statements produced by the claimant under that section.

**Grounds on which application must be dismissed**

5 58j. (1) On the application of the Chief Commissioner, the Supreme Court shall dismiss a claimant's application under section 65H if the Court is satisfied that—

(a) the claimant has failed to furnish to the Chief Commissioner the record required by section 58c; or

10 (b) the claimant has failed to prosecute the application with all due diligence.

(2) If the Chief Commissioner makes application as referred to in subsection (1) (a), the claimant bears the onus of satisfying the Court that the claimant has furnished to the Chief Commissioner the record required by section 58c.

**Forfeiture etc. of seized petroleum products**

58k. (1) The Chief Commissioner may order that seized petroleum products be forfeited to the Crown if satisfied that—

20 (a) no claim for the seized petroleum products has been duly made; or

(b) all claims duly made for the seized petroleum products have been unsuccessful.

(2) A claim for seized petroleum products shall be regarded as being unsuccessful if—

25 (a) the Chief Commissioner has rejected the claim; and

(b) any application to the Supreme Court by the claimant under section 65H in respect of the claim has been disposed of; and

30 (c) the Supreme Court has not ordered on such an application that a person is entitled to the petroleum products.

(3) An order that petroleum products be forfeited to the Crown must be published in the Gazette and operates, on its publication, to forfeit the petroleum products to the Crown but may be revoked by the Chief Commissioner by a further order in writing.

35 (4) A reference in this section to seized petroleum products includes a reference to the liquidated value of seized petroleum products paid into Court under section 58G, in which case the Chief Commissioner's order is sufficient authority for the payment of that liquidated value out of Court to the Crown.

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued***Power to dispose of forfeited petroleum products**

58L. The Chief Commissioner may dispose of forfeited petroleum products on behalf of the Crown in such manner as the Chief Commissioner thinks fit, including by destroying them.

5 **No action against Chief Commissioner**

58M. No proceedings shall be taken against the Chief Commissioner as a consequence of—

- (a) the release of any petroleum products (or their liquidated value paid into Court) to a person; or
- 10 (b) the forfeiture of any petroleum products (or their liquidated value paid into Court); or
- (c) the destruction of any petroleum products,

in accordance with this Division.

**Extension of time by Chief Commissioner**

15 58N. The Chief Commissioner may extend and further extend the time for making a claim for seized petroleum products or an application to the Supreme Court under this Division.

(14) **Section 67 (Evidence of matters certified)—**

Omit “under this Act or the regulations”.

20 (15) **Section 68 (Notices of assessment)—**

Section 68 (1)—

Omit “In any proceedings under this Act or the regulations or for the recovery of any amount due and payable under this Act or the regulations”, insert instead “In any proceedings”.

25 (16) **Section 69A—**

After section 69, insert:

**Alternative verdict—Part 4**

30 69A. If in proceedings against a person for an offence under Part 4 the court is not satisfied that the person contravened the provision concerned but is satisfied that the act or omission concerned constituted a contravention by the person of another provision of Part 4, the court may convict the person of an offence under that other provision.



*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1989*SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

## (17) Section 72A—

After section 72, insert:

**Set off by Chief Commissioner**

72A. (1) If a person has a liability under this Act to pay an amount to the Chief Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner also has a liability under this Act to pay an amount to the person—

- (a) the Chief Commissioner may, instead of paying the person, pay an amount in discharge of the person's liability under this Act; and
- (b) to the extent of any such payment by the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner's liability to the person, and the person's liability under this Act, are discharged.

(2) A reference in subsection (1) to a liability under this Act is a reference to a liability under, by virtue of or in connection with the administration of this Act or the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Act 1982 (whether by way of licence fees, interest, penalties, refunds, judgment debts or costs, or otherwise).

(3) This section does not affect any other right of the Chief Commissioner to set off.

(18) Schedule 3 (**Savings and transitional provisions**)—

Clauses 7, 8—

After clause 6, insert:

*Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989*

**Petroleum products in custody**

7. (1) Part 8, as amended by the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989, applies to petroleum products taken into custody under that Part whether before or after the commencement of section 58B.

(2) For the purposes of the application of that Part (as so amended) to any such petroleum products, the petroleum products shall be regarded as having been taken into custody on the commencement of section 58B.

**Pending objections**

8. (1) In this clause—

“former appeal provisions” means the provisions of Part 6 as in force immediately before the commencement of section 52A;

SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENTS—*continued*

“new appeal provisions” means the provisions of Part 6, as amended by the Business Franchise Licences (Petroleum Products) Amendment Act 1989.

5 (2) An objection made under the former appeal provisions before the commencement of the new appeal provisions shall be dealt with as an objection under the new appeal provisions unless subclause (3) otherwise provides.

10 (3) Subclause (2) does not apply to an objection made under the former appeal provisions if an appeal to the Tribunal in respect of the objection has been made and determined before, or is out of time on, the commencement of the new appeal provisions.

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