



REV - Q - NEWS

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From the Executive Director

It has been busy in recent months at the Office of State Revenue (OSR) with our involvement in Community Ambulance Cover for Queensland. OSR was responsible for the drafting of the new legislation and is coordinating the operational elements of the scheme. OSR will also be providing materials and information to support the electricity retailers who will be administering the scheme on behalf of the Commissioner of State Revenue.

The timeframes and scope of the project presented us with significant challenges. However, I am pleased to say that the legislative and administrative arrangements were put in place for commencement of the scheme on 1 July 2003. Full details of the new scheme are outlined in this edition.

The recent State Budget has also resulted in some changes to land tax in Queensland. These changes affect both Queensland residents, and companies, trustees and absentees. All resident land tax taxpayers, and tax paying companies, trustees and absentees with land holdings of less than \$235,000 (aggregate unimproved value), will benefit from the Budget changes.

The next few months will be important for OSR as we have a number of very significant projects and activities occurring that will advance our vision to service you better and be first choice as innovative revenue managers for the Queensland Government and the community. As a forerunner to the implementation of our Client Relationship Management Strategy and following our client consultation, we are now consulting on changes to our organisation with our people and at a whole-of-Government level. We are also re-examining the design of our new IT system.

As always, we will be communicating with you on major developments as they happen.

James Green

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Community Ambulance Cover for Queenslanders

With the recent enactment of the *Community Ambulance Cover Act 2003* the Office of State Revenue (OSR) takes on an additional business line, Community Ambulance Cover.

Since 1 July 2003, all Queenslanders have been covered for essential ambulance services anywhere, anytime across Australia with Community Ambulance Cover.

The Queensland Ambulance Service needs a reliable and predictable funding base to provide its world-class standard of health care. The traditional fundraising method of subscriptions has become unsustainable for several reasons. Community Ambulance Cover replaces the Queensland Ambulance Service Subscription Scheme and ambulance transport charges. The cover will spread the cost of ambulance services across the community.

Community Ambulance Cover is not a user pays system but is a broad based funding mechanism which will apply to most electricity accounts in Queensland. All funds raised by Community Ambulance Cover will go directly to funding the ambulance service.

OSR is responsible for administration of the *Community Ambulance Cover Act 2003* and worked with electricity retailers to finalise administration arrangements for the 1 July 2003 start. Under the scheme, electricity retailers will provide the majority of administrative functions including handling client enquiries, billing, processing exemptions and preliminary debt recovery.

The Office is responsible for the legislation and for supporting electricity retailers. OSR will provide materials and information to support client service delivery through electricity retailers and will handle more complex matters including objections and audits.

Additional information

Who pays?

Community Ambulance Cover will be included as a separate item on all metered electricity accounts in Queensland from 1 July 2003. The account holder is responsible for paying the levy.

There are special rules for on-supply arrangements. These are situations where electricity for a building is purchased from an electricity retailer by a person such as the building owner or manager who then on-supplies the electricity to shops, offices or residences in the building. The on-supplier is liable to pay the levy on each shop etc., but has a right of recovery from persons such as owners or occupiers of those areas.



Have you changed your address?



To update your details please contact OSR via email - communication@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au or fax (07) 3836 0442.

Please quote the reference number on the envelope you received this edition in.



How much will it cost?

Each electricity account will be charged at approximately 24c a day or \$88 a year. The charge will be shown as a separate item on the electricity account and included in the total account charge. Account holders can continue to pay for their account as they have in the past.

Who is exempt?

A range of exemptions has been approved. Some of these exemptions will be automatically processed by the electricity retailer, while for other exemptions, eligible account holders will need to apply.

If a person believes they may be eligible for an exemption, they must first pay the electricity account then lodge an exemption form. If the exemption is approved, a credit will appear on the next account. The exemption will continue to apply unless circumstances change.

The following account categories are eligible for an exemption. There are also exemptions for government. For full details, refer to the Community Ambulance Cover website.

- **A single business or other non-residential activity in a single building will pay one levy, even if there is more than one electricity account.**
 - o To be eligible, the electricity must be supplied on a non-domestic account. Community Ambulance Cover may also attract a tax deduction for businesses, depending on individual circumstances. Contact a tax advisor or the Australian Taxation Office for advice.
 - o Account holders will need to apply for an exemption. A multiple accounts exemption form is available from Australia Post offices statewide.

- **Pensioner Concession Card holders and Queensland Government Seniors Card holders**
 - o If these card holders receive a Queensland Government electricity rebate, their exemption will be automatically processed by the electricity retailer.
 - o An exemption will apply only to the card holder's principal place of residence. The card holder must either live alone or share the premises with one of the following persons:
 - a spouse, including a de facto spouse
 - a person who is wholly dependent on the card holder
 - another card holder
 - a social security beneficiary who does not pay rent
 - a person who provides care and assistance to the card holder and who does not pay rent.

- **Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card holders**
 - o Gold Card holders who do not currently receive the electricity rebate will need to apply for an exemption. The same exemption conditions apply as for pensioners and Seniors Card holders.
 - o These Gold Card holders should have received a pensioner exemption form in the mail from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs.

- **Farming sheds**
 - o To be eligible, the farming shed must be on a separate electricity account.
 - o An exempt farming shed is a building or structure used only for primary production, located on the land used mainly for primary production. Examples include tractor storage, milking and boat sheds, and silos.
 - o Farming shed account holders will need to apply for an exemption. A pumps and farming sheds exemption application form is available from Australia Post offices statewide.
- **Farming water pumps**
 - o To be eligible, the farming water pump must be on a separate electricity account.
 - o An exempt farming water pump is used for irrigation, stock or other purposes of primary production.
 - o Most farming water pump exemptions will be automatically processed.
 - o If required, a pumps and farming sheds exemption application form is available from Australia Post offices statewide.
- **Domestic water and sewerage pumps**
 - o To be eligible, the pump must be on a separate electricity account.
 - o Account holders will need to apply for an exemption.
 - o A pumps and farming sheds exemption application form is available from Australia Post offices statewide.
- **Religious bodies and other institutions**
 - o Churches and other places of worship are exempt. Some other not-for-profit organisations conducting certain public benevolent activities may also be exempt, such as crisis accommodation and hostels for the homeless, respite centres and meals on wheels.
 - o Account holders will need to apply for an exemption with a religious bodies and other institutions exemption application form.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit www.ambulancecover.qld.gov.au
- Call 1300 304 274
8am–6pm Monday to Friday

INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

OSR offers a free subscription service that automatically notifies subscribers via e-mail of changes to OSR's website including new rulings, practice directions and other publications.



If you wish to register to receive automatic notification, send a blank email (subject and body not required) to whatsnew-subscribe@osr.qld.gov.au.

You will receive a confirmation message which you must reply to. Once acknowledged, a welcome message will appear in your mailbox as confirmation of your subscription.



First Home Owner Grant prosecution



The Queensland First Home Owner Grant Scheme is supported by a robust compliance program designed to ensure the scheme's integrity and that only eligible applicants receive the benefit of a grant payment.

The Office of State Revenue has an active audit program to identify false claims made by applicants who have previously owned property anywhere in Australia and also those applicants who acquire investment/rental properties.

Recently in the Brisbane Magistrates Court, a Queensland applicant was prosecuted and fined \$1,859 after pleading guilty to charges that he had knowingly provided false and misleading information to the Commissioner of State Revenue in an attempt to obtain a grant to which he was not entitled. The applicant had previously applied for and been paid a grant in respect of a home purchased in another state.

Anyone who has obtained the grant but was not, or is no longer, eligible should contact 1300 300 118.

2003-04 State Budget outcomes for land tax in Queensland

This year's State Budget contained a number of changes to land tax in Queensland. Currently, residents receive a \$200,000 statutory deduction to the taxable value of their land holdings and may also qualify for a concession for their principal place of residence. The statutory deduction for residents is to increase from \$200,000 to \$220,000.

Currently, tax liabilities of less than \$100 are generally not collected. This means that residents with land holdings of less than \$221,665 (aggregate unimproved value) are not liable for land tax (after taking into account the statutory deduction, general rebate and any principal place of residence). The minimum tax collected will increase from \$100 to \$350. This means that residents with land holdings of less than \$275,997 (aggregate unimproved value) will not be liable for land tax (after taking into account the increased statutory deduction, the unchanged general rebate and any principal place of residence).



An exemption threshold of \$150,000 also currently applies for companies, trustees or absentees. Those with land holdings below this unimproved value are not liable for land tax. Those with holdings above this amount are liable for land tax on the full unimproved value of their land holdings. A phasing-in rebate which cuts out at \$215,000, alleviates the impact of the value being just over the exemption threshold. The exemption threshold is to increase from \$150,000 to \$170,000, with a consequential extension of the cut-off value for the phasing-in rebate from \$215,000 to \$235,000.

Attention - duties calculator users

A new version of the OSR calculators incorporating the 2003-04 unpaid tax interest rate is now available on the OSR website



All resident land tax payers, and tax paying companies, trustees and absentees with land holdings of less than \$235,000, will benefit from the changes.

The measures will be effective from 1 July 2003.

Any taxpayer enquiries should be referred to the Office of State Revenue land tax enquiry number on 1300 301 547 or (07) 3227 6044.

Recently released revenue rulings

Revenue Rulings (Duties)

DA 16.3 22/04/2003 Private rulings on unexecuted instruments or proposed transactions

Recently released practice directions

Practice Directions (Duties)

DA 59.1 15/04/2003 Transfer duty treatment of mining leases, mineral development leases and mining claims

DA 60.1 17/04/2003 Mortgage duty relief on the refinancing of certain rural loans

DA 9.2 14/05/2003 Land rich duty - related persons

DA 41.3 16/05/2003 Transfers of secured and unsecured debts

DA 42.3 16/05/2003 Security trusts

DA 61.1 05/06/2003 Stamping requirements for trust deeds evidencing the creation of a trust

Practice Directions (Pay-roll tax)

PY 1.1 29/04/2003 Valuing employee non-cash benefits - including fringe benefits

Practice Directions (Succession)

SU 1.1 16/05/2003 Cessation of succession duty

Draft revenue rulings

Draft Revenue Rulings (Duties)

DA 33.1D 04/06/2003 Hire duty relevant factors in determining whether a person is carrying on a hiring business

Draft Revenue Rulings (Pay-roll tax)

PY 5.2D 21/05/2003 Employee's payments of employer's fringe benefits tax liability

PY 1.2D 04/06/2003 Liability of termination payments to pay-roll tax

All OSR practice directions and revenue rulings are available on our website
www.osr.qld.gov.au



10 reasons to visit the Office of State Revenue's website

As part of the Queensland Government's Access Queensland initiative, the Office of State Revenue (OSR) is enhancing its website to be consistent in presentation and navigation to other Queensland Government sites. The new website has replaced the current site from 1 July 2003.

① State taxation information

A webpage for each State tax, containing:

- an explanation of each tax
- when the tax applies
- who is liable to pay the tax
- brochures and information bulletins with additional information.

② Grants and subsidies

Information is available on:

- the First Home Owner Grant Scheme
- the Fuel Subsidy Scheme.

③ Revenue rulings

Revenue rulings are published decisions on the interpretation of the laws administered by OSR.

④ Practice directions

Practice directions are written guidelines OSR staff use to determine taxation liability and office practice on specific matters. They are released to the public so taxpayers can have increased certainty about the operation of Queensland's revenue laws.

⑤ Legislation

The website contains information on new and amended legislation, with a link to the legislation, that is administered by OSR.

⑥ Forms and publications

OSR's forms and publications for each tax stream are available in portable data format (PDF).

⑦ About OSR

Learn about our vision, mission, values and key issues facing OSR.

⑧ Contact details

Client Contact Centre and service centre contact details, business hours, postal addresses, telephone & facsimile numbers and enquiry email addresses.

⑨ What's new?

Latest developments within OSR. Register to receive automatic notification of changes to OSR's website.

⑩ Taxpayers' Charter

This charter deals with your rights and obligations and the level of service you will receive in your dealings with OSR. The charter confirms our commitment to satisfying your enquiries and to successfully resolving your complaints.

Contact directory

OFFICE HOURS

8.00 am - 5.00 pm	Client Contact Centre
8.00 am - 5.00 pm	Counter Services
8.30 am - 4.30 pm	Cashiers - Brisbane
8.00 am - 4.00 pm	Cashiers - Regional

REGIONAL OFFICES

Rockhampton

General Address:	Level 3, State Government Building 209 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
Postal Address:	PO Box 1276, Rockhampton Qld 4700
Telephone:	1300 300 734
Facsimile:	(07) 4938 4912

Townsville

General Address:	Level 1, State Government Building 187-209 Stanley Street, Townsville
Postal Address:	PO Box 988, Townsville Qld 4810
Telephone:	1300 300 734
Facsimile:	(07) 4721 1976

Cairns

General Address:	Level 9, Cairns Corporate Tower 15 Lake Street, Cairns
Postal Address:	PO Box 2378, Cairns Qld 4870
Telephone:	1300 300 734
Facsimile:	(07) 4031 2170

BRISBANE OFFICE

Address:	Level G2 200 Mary Street, Brisbane
General Postal Address	GPO Box 2593 Brisbane Qld 4001
Email:	enquiries@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

DUTIES

Client Contact Centre

Postal Address:	GPO Box 2593 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1300 300 734
Facsimile:	(07) 3836 0903
Email:	ClientContactCentre@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

Duty Returns (Brisbane Registrations)

Postal Address:	GPO Box 2475 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1300 300 734
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 7871
Email:	returns@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

LAND TAX

General Land Tax

Postal Address:	GPO Box 2476 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1300 301 547 (07) 3227 6044
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 7577
Email:	landtax@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

Land Tax Clearances

Telephone:	1300 301 548 (07) 3227 6039
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 6783

PAY-ROLL TAX

Postal Address:	GPO Box 2248 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1300 301 546 (07) 3227 8903
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 6822
Email:	payrolltax@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT

Postal Address:	GPO Box 2593 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1300 300 118 (07) 3404 3956
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 8292
Email:	firsthomeownergrant@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

DEBITS TAX

Postal Address:	GPO Box 2475 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1300 300 734
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 7871
Email:	debitstax@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

FUEL SUBSIDY

Postal Address:	GPO Box 953 Brisbane Qld 4001
Telephone:	1800 814 657
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 8769
Email:	fuelsubsidy@osr.treasury.qld.gov.au

INVESTIGATIONS

Postal Address:	GPO Box 955 Brisbane Qld 4001
General enquiries:	3227 6177
Informant line:	3227 8704
Facsimile:	(07) 3227 7706

Website:	www.osr.qld.gov.au
Client Contact Centre:	1300 300 734
Rev-Q-Fax:	1300 300 089
Client Complaints:	1800 500 263