



Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003

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Queensland

Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003

Contents

		Page
Part 1	Preliminary	
1	Short title	3
2	Dictionary	3
Part 2	Salary	
3	Salary of Governor	3
4	Salary of Acting Governor	3
Part 3	Pensions	
Division 1	Introductory	
5	Purposes of part	4
6	Other divisions in this part	4
Division 2	Entitlements and rates of pensions payable	
7	Pension relating to Governor appointed after commencement . .	5
8	Pension relating to Governor holding office immediately before commencement	6
9	Provisions relating to each former Governor to whom a pension is payable before commencement	6
10	Provisions relating to each surviving partner of deceased Governor, to whom a pension is payable before commencement	7
Division 3	Provisions that may affect pension entitlement or amount of pensions	
Subdivision 1	General provisions	
11	If Governor ceases to hold office within 5 years of appointment .	7
12	Election for lump sum to meet surcharge liability	8
13	Minimum benefit payable	9
14	Competing claims for pension as surviving partner	9
15	Indexation	10
16	Reduction of pension payable if other relevant entitlement	11
Subdivision 2	Provisions for agreements and court orders under Family Law Act	

Contents

16A	Definitions for sdiv 2	12
16B	Providing information	13
16C	Agreement or court order—minimum benefit	13
16D	Agreement or court order—pension	14
16E	Agreement or court order—death of Governor in office	15
16F	Effect of agreement or court order on particular pensions	15
16G	Minister to inform entitled former spouse	16
Division 4	Provisions that may result in end of entitlements to pensions	
17	Definitions for div 4	16
18	Entitlement to pension may end	17
19	Amounts previously paid as pension or lump sum if accountable Governor's entitlement ends	18
Part 4	Miscellaneous matters	
20	Accrual and payment of pensions	19
21	Appropriation	19
22	Minister is manager for Commonwealth Act	19
23	Regulation-making power	20
Part 5	Transitional provisions	
24	Salary payable to Governor immediately before commencement	20
25	No entitlement to pension if no pension payable under the Governors' Pensions Act 1977	20
Part 6	Repeals	
26	Repeal of Acts	21
Schedule	Dictionary	22

Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003

An Act to provide for the salary payable to a person holding the office of Governor of the State of Queensland, the pensions payable to former Governors and their surviving partners, the ending of entitlements to pensions, and for related purposes

Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003*.

2 Dictionary

The dictionary in the schedule defines particular words used in this Act.

Part 2 Salary

3 Salary of Governor

A salary is payable to the Governor at the rate prescribed under a regulation.

4 Salary of Acting Governor

- (1) For the period when a person is an Acting Governor, a salary is payable to the person at the rate payable to the Governor.

[s 5]

- (2) However, the amount of the salary payable under subsection (1) to a person is to be reduced, including to zero, by the amount of salary payable for the same period to the person as the Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice or a Supreme Court judge.

Editor's note—

See the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 41(3) for the persons who must administer the Government of the State as Acting Governor.

Part 3 Pensions

Division 1 Introductory

5 Purposes of part

The purposes of this part are to provide for—

- (a) the entitlement of a former Governor to a pension; and
- (b) the entitlement of a surviving partner of a deceased Governor to a pension; and
- (c) the rates of the pensions payable; and
- (d) other matters relevant to the entitlement to pensions and the rate of pensions.

6 Other divisions in this part

- (1) Division 2 sets out the entitlement to, and rates of, pensions payable.
- (2) Division 3 sets out provisions that may affect the entitlement to, and amounts of, pensions payable.
- (3) Division 4 sets out provisions that may result in the ending of an entitlement to a pension.

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- (4) The provisions in division 2 are subject to the provisions in divisions 3 and 4, and the provisions in division 3 are subject to the provisions in division 4.

Division 2 Entitlements and rates of pensions payable

7 Pension relating to Governor appointed after commencement

- (1) This section applies to a person appointed Governor after the commencement of this section who is an Australian citizen at the time of appointment.
- (2) When the person ceases to hold the office, a pension is payable to the person for the person's lifetime if—
- (a) the person has held the office for 5 years or more; or
 - (b) the Minister declares, under section 11, that the person is entitled to a pension under this subsection.
- (3) The rate of the pension is equal to 35% of the rate of salary payable to the person as Governor immediately before the person ceases to hold the office.
- (4) If the person dies while holding the office, a pension is payable to the person's surviving partner for the surviving partner's lifetime at the rate equal to five-eighths of the rate of pension that would have been payable to the person if the person—
- (a) ceased to hold the office immediately before the death; and
 - (b) had been entitled to a pension on ceasing to hold the office.
- (5) If the person dies after ceasing to hold the office and, immediately before the death, a pension is payable under subsection (2) to the person, a pension is payable to the person's surviving partner for the surviving partner's lifetime

at a rate equal to five-eighths of the amount of the pension payable to the person immediately before the death.

8 Pension relating to Governor holding office immediately before commencement

- (1) This section applies to the person holding the office immediately before the commencement of this section.
- (2) When the person ceases to hold the office, a pension is payable to the person for the person's lifetime at a rate equal to 60% of the rate of salary payable to the person as Governor immediately before the person ceases to hold the office.
- (3) If the person dies while holding the office, a pension is payable to the person's surviving partner for the surviving partner's lifetime at the rate equal to five-eighths of the rate of pension that would have been payable to the person if the person—
 - (a) ceased to hold the office immediately before the death; and
 - (b) had been entitled to a pension on ceasing to hold the office.
- (4) If the person dies after ceasing to hold the office and, immediately before the death, a pension is payable to the person, a pension is payable to the person's surviving partner for the surviving partner's lifetime at a rate equal to five-eighths of the amount of the pension payable to the person immediately before the death.

9 Provisions relating to each former Governor to whom a pension is payable before commencement

- (1) This section applies to each former Governor to whom a pension is payable immediately before the commencement of this section.
- (2) The former Governor continues to be entitled to be paid the pension for the former Governor's lifetime.

- (3) The amount of the pension payable continues to be the amount of the pension payable to the former Governor immediately before the commencement.
- (4) When the former Governor dies, a pension is payable to the former Governor's surviving partner for the surviving partner's lifetime at a rate equal to five-eighths of the amount of pension payable to the former Governor immediately before the death.

10 Provisions relating to each surviving partner of deceased Governor, to whom a pension is payable before commencement

- (1) This section applies to each surviving partner of a deceased Governor if a pension was payable to the surviving partner immediately before the commencement of this section.
- (2) The surviving partner continues to be entitled to be paid the pension for the surviving partner's lifetime.
- (3) The amount of the pension payable to the surviving partner continues to be the amount of the pension payable to the surviving partner immediately before the commencement.

Division 3 Provisions that may affect pension entitlement or amount of pensions

Subdivision 1 General provisions

11 If Governor ceases to hold office within 5 years of appointment

- (1) A person who held the office for less than 5 years may apply to the Minister for the payment of a pension under section 7(2) on the ground that the person was, immediately before ceasing to hold the office, incapable of performing the duties of the office.

[s 12]

- (2) The Minister may declare that the person is entitled to a pension under section 7(2) if the Minister is satisfied the person ceased to hold the office because, at the time of ceasing to hold the office, the person was incapable of performing the duties of the office.
- (3) If the Minister decides that the person ceased to hold the office for a reason other than the person was incapable of performing the duties of the office, the Minister must give the person written reasons for the decision.

12 Election for lump sum to meet surcharge liability

- (1) This section applies to each of the following persons—
 - (a) a former Governor to whom a pension is payable;
 - (b) a surviving partner of a person who died while holding the office if a pension is payable after the death to the surviving partner.
- (2) The person may elect to be paid a lump sum, instead of a part of the pension payable.
- (3) The maximum amount that may be paid as a lump sum under the election is the amount of the surcharge liability attributable to holding the office.
- (4) The election must be—
 - (a) made in writing to the Minister; and
 - (b) accompanied by a copy of the surcharge liability notice stating the amount of the surcharge liability.
- (5) The Minister must act on the election by reducing the pension by the amount of the lump sum.
- (6) The reduction must happen in the way decided by the Minister on the advice of an actuary.
- (7) In this section—

surcharge liability means the amount a person is liable to pay to the commissioner of taxation, under the *Superannuation Contributions Tax (Members of Constitutionally Protected*

Superannuation Funds) Assessment and Collection Act 1997 (Cwlth), section 15.

surcharge liability notice means a notice given to a person by the commissioner of taxation, under the *Superannuation Contributions Tax (Members of Constitutionally Protected Superannuation Funds) Assessment and Collection Act 1997* (Cwlth), section 15.

13 Minimum benefit payable

- (1) This section applies in relation to each of the following persons—
 - (a) a person who ceases to hold the office;
 - (b) a person who dies while holding the office.
- (2) If an actuary approved by the Minister decides there is an entitlement to a minimum benefit for the person, the minimum benefit must be paid to an approved deposit fund, or a superannuation fund, nominated by or for the person, despite another provision of this Act.
- (3) In this section—

minimum benefit means the amount of payment, pension or preserved benefit entitlement that is necessary to ensure a superannuation guarantee charge is not imposed on the State under the *Superannuation Guarantee Charge Act 1992* (Cwlth).

14 Competing claims for pension as surviving partner

- (1) This section applies to a pension payable to a surviving partner of a deceased Governor if the appointment as Governor was made on or after 29 July 1997.
- (2) If, apart from this subsection, the pension would be payable to more than 1 surviving partner because the deceased Governor left more than 1 surviving partner—
 - (a) the pension is payable as decided by the Minister after consultation with the member who is recognised in the

Legislative Assembly as the Leader of the Opposition;
and

- (b) the total amount of pension payable to the surviving partners at any time must be equal to the amount of the pension that would have been payable if the deceased Governor left only 1 surviving partner.
- (3) For subsection (2)(a), the Minister may decide—
- (a) that the pension is not payable to 1 or some, but not all, of the surviving partners; or
 - (b) subject to subsection (2)(b), how the amount of the pension is to be apportioned between the surviving partners.
- (4) For subsection (3), the Minister must have regard to the needs of each of the surviving partners and other matters the Minister reasonably considers relevant.

15 Indexation

- (1) This section applies to a pension payable to a person during a financial year if the pension was payable to the person immediately before the start of the financial year.
- (2) After the start of the financial year, the Minister must reassess the amount of the pension and either increase it or maintain it at the same level as in the previous financial year, as follows—
 - (a) if the June index for the previous financial year is higher than the last adjustment index for the pension, the pension must be increased by the percentage increase between the 2 indexes;
 - (b) otherwise, the pension remains the same.
- (3) If the pension for the financial year is increased under the reassessment, the pension is payable to the person at the increased level from 1 July in the financial year and increased payments must begin from the first full pay period in August in that financial year.

(4) A percentage increase between 2 indexes under subsection (2)(a) must be calculated to 1 decimal place by increasing the percentage to the next highest single decimal place.

(5) In this section—

June index, for a financial year, means the all groups consumer price index for Brisbane, published by the Australian Statistician, for the last quarter of the financial year.

last adjustment index, for a pension, means—

(a) if the pension has ever been increased under this section or repealed section 4, the June index for the financial year immediately before the financial year in which the pension was last increased under this section or repealed section 4; or

(b) otherwise, the June index for the financial year immediately before the financial year in which the pension began to be payable.

repealed section 4 means the *Governors' Pensions Act 1977*, section 4 as in force before the commencement of this section.

16 Reduction of pension payable if other relevant entitlement

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a pension would, apart from this section, be payable to a former Governor for a financial year; and

(b) a relevant entitlement is payable to the former Governor for the financial year.

(2) If the amount of the relevant entitlement for the financial year is—

(a) less than the amount of the pension that would be payable for the financial year, the amount of the pension that would be payable must be reduced for the financial year by the amount of the relevant entitlement; or

- (b) the same as or more than the amount of the pension that would be payable for the financial year, a pension is not payable for the financial year.
- (3) In this section—
- relevant entitlement*** means a pension or retiring allowance payable, whether under a law or otherwise, out of moneys wholly or partially provided by the State, the Commonwealth or another State in relation to a remunerative activity undertaken by a former Governor before the person held the office, and does not include an amount payable by way of pension, benefit or allowance under—
- (a) the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (Cwlth); or
 - (b) the *Social Security Act 1991* (Cwlth); or
 - (c) another Act of the State, the Commonwealth or another State that is prescribed under a regulation for this section.

Subdivision 2 Provisions for agreements and court orders under Family Law Act

16A Definitions for sdiv 2

In this subdivision—

agreement means an agreement mentioned in the definition *entitled former spouse*.

court order means a court order mentioned in the definition *entitled former spouse*.

entitled former spouse means a person who is entitled or conditionally entitled under an agreement, or a court order, under the Family Law Act, part VIIIB, to payment of a part of a benefit that would otherwise be payable under this Act to a former Governor.

Family Law Act means the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cwlth).

operative time, for an agreement or court order, is the time that is, under the Family Law Act, part VIII B, the operative time in relation to the payment split or payment flag under the agreement or order.

16B Providing information

- (1) This section applies if an eligible person within the meaning of the Family Law Act, section 90M ZB, applies under that section to the Minister for information about a benefit that is being paid, or may become payable, under this Act.
- (2) The Minister must give to the eligible person the information as required under the Family Law Act.
- (3) If the information is about a benefit for the Governor, the information may include an accrued benefit multiple for the benefit decided by the Minister on the advice of an actuary.

16C Agreement or court order—minimum benefit

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the Minister receives an agreement or court order that relates to a person who, at the operative time for the agreement or order, is the Governor; and
 - (b) the benefit that becomes payable under this Act in relation to the person is a minimum benefit under section 13.
- (2) The Minister must pay to an approved deposit fund, or a superannuation fund, nominated by the entitled former spouse for the agreement or court order the amount to which he or she is entitled under the agreement or order.
- (3) However, if the entitled former spouse does not nominate a fund for subsection (2) within 3 months after the day the minimum benefit becomes payable, the Minister must pay the amount to the State Public Sector Superannuation Fund on behalf of the entitled former spouse.

[s 16D]

- (4) The Minister must reduce the benefit that, other than for the agreement or court order, would be payable under this Act in relation to the person mentioned in subsection (1) by the amount paid to the entitled former spouse.
- (5) This section does not apply to an agreement or court order if section 16E applies to the agreement or order.
- (6) In this section—
State Public Sector Superannuation Fund means the State Public Sector Superannuation Fund under the *Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990*.

16D Agreement or court order—pension

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the Minister receives an agreement or court order that relates to a person who, at the operative time for the agreement or order, is a former Governor or the Governor; and
 - (b) the benefit that is being paid, or becomes payable, under this Act to the person is a pension (a *relevant benefit*).
- (2) Subject to subsection (4), the Minister must pay the entitled former spouse for the agreement or court order the proportion, stated in the agreement or order, of the relevant benefit to which he or she is entitled under the agreement or order (the *spousal amount*).
- (3) The Minister must reduce the relevant benefit that, other than for the agreement or court order, would be payable under this Act to the person mentioned in subsection (1) by the spousal amount.
- (4) The Minister must pay the entitled former spouse a pension for his or her lifetime (a *lifetime pension*) if the entitled former spouse elects, by written notice given to the Minister, to be paid a lifetime pension.
- (5) The notice must be given to the Minister—

-
- (a) if the Minister receives the agreement or court order before the relevant benefit becomes payable—within 3 months after it becomes payable; or
 - (b) otherwise—within 3 months after the day the Minister receives the agreement or order.
- (6) If the entitled former spouse elects to be paid a lifetime pension, the amount of the pension must be calculated in the way decided by the Minister on the advice of an actuary.

16E Agreement or court order—death of Governor in office

- (1) This section applies if the Minister receives an agreement or court order that relates to a person who—
 - (a) is the Governor at the operative time for the agreement or order; and
 - (b) dies while holding office.
- (2) The Minister must pay the entitled former spouse for the agreement or court order a pension for his or her lifetime (a *lifetime pension*).
- (3) The amount of the lifetime pension must be—
 - (a) calculated in the way decided by the Minister on the advice of an actuary; and
 - (b) based on the proportion, stated in the agreement or court order, of the pension that would have been payable to the person mentioned in subsection (1) if the person had been entitled to the pension under section 7 immediately before the person's death.

16F Effect of agreement or court order on particular pensions

Despite section 7(4) or (5), 8(4), or 9(4), an entitled former spouse is not entitled to receive a pension under any of the provisions.

16G Minister to inform entitled former spouse

If the Minister receives an agreement or court order from a person other than the entitled former spouse for the agreement or order, the Minister must as soon as practicable inform the entitled former spouse of the receipt of the agreement or order.

Division 4 Provisions that may result in end of entitlements to pensions

17 Definitions for div 4

In this division—

accountable Governor means either of the following—

- (a) a former Governor if—
 - (i) the former Governor is entitled to a pension, including a former Governor appointed to the office before the commencement of this section; and
 - (ii) there is a finding of an established tribunal that the former Governor misbehaved in a way that justifies ending the entitlement as mentioned in section 18(2), including misbehaviour before, during or after the appointment to the office;
- (b) a deceased Governor if—
 - (i) the deceased Governor was, immediately before the death, entitled to a pension, including a deceased Governor who was appointed to the office before the commencement of this section; and
 - (ii) there was an appointment resolution in relation to the deceased Governor before the death; and
 - (iii) there is a finding that the deceased Governor misbehaved in a way that would justify ending the

prescribed entitlement as mentioned in section 18(2), including misbehaviour before, during or after the appointment to the office.

appointment resolution means a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, appointing the members of an established tribunal.

established tribunal means a tribunal established under an Act as mentioned in section 18(3)(a).

lump sum means an amount paid in relation to a former Governor—

- (a) under section 12; or
- (b) under the *Governors' Pensions Act 1977*, section 5A, as in force before the commencement of this section.

prescribed entitlement means either of the following but does not include an entitlement to a payment under section 13—

- (a) when used in relation to a former Governor—the former Governor's entitlement to a pension under this Act;
- (b) when used in relation to a deceased Governor—the entitlement of a surviving partner of the deceased Governor to a pension under this Act.

18 Entitlement to pension may end

- (1) A prescribed entitlement ends if the Legislative Assembly resolves that there is proved misbehaviour justifying ending the prescribed entitlement.
- (2) Misbehaviour justifying ending a prescribed entitlement is proved only if the Legislative Assembly accepts a finding of an established tribunal, stated in a report of the established tribunal, that, on the balance of probabilities, the accountable Governor misbehaved in a way that justifies ending the prescribed entitlement.
- (3) A tribunal relating to a former Governor—

- (a) is to be established under an Act and has the functions, powers, protection and immunity given under an Act; and
 - (b) is to consist of at least 3 members, appointed by appointment resolution.
- (4) A person may be appointed to the established tribunal relating to a former Governor only if—
- (a) the person is a former judge or justice of a State or Federal superior court in Australia; and
 - (b) the person and the former Governor were not members of the same court at the same time.
- (5) The established tribunal must report to the Legislative Assembly whether, on the balance of probabilities, the accountable Governor misbehaved in a way that justifies ending the prescribed entitlement.
- (6) For this section, each of the following is not relevant—
- (a) when an accountable Governor was appointed to the office;
 - (b) when the misbehaviour took place;
 - (c) the death of a person who, immediately before the death, was a former Governor to whom an appointment resolution related.

Example for subsection (6)—

A tribunal may be established about a former Governor appointed before this section commenced relating to the former Governor's behaviour that took place before, during or after the person held the office. The established tribunal may make a report about the former Governor even though the former Governor dies before the established tribunal makes its report.

19 Amounts previously paid as pension or lump sum if accountable Governor's entitlement ends

- (1) Either or both of the following may include a provision about recovering all or a stated part of an amount paid to or for an accountable Governor as a pension or as a lump sum—

-
- (a) a resolution of the Legislative Assembly under section 18(1);
 - (b) a report of an established tribunal under section 18(5).
- (2) If a resolution under section 18(1) provides that a stated amount is to be recovered, that amount is a debt due to the State and may be recovered in a way prescribed under a regulation.

Part 4 Miscellaneous matters

20 Accrual and payment of pensions

A pension accrues daily and is payable fortnightly or, subject to the Treasurer's approval, at other intervals.

21 Appropriation

- (1) This section applies to amounts payable—
 - (a) under part 2 as salary; and
 - (b) under part 3 as a pension, lump sum stated in an election under section 12 or other form of payment.
- (2) The amounts are payable out of the consolidated fund, which is appropriated to the extent necessary.

22 Minister is manager for Commonwealth Act

- (1) This section applies for the *Superannuation Contributions Tax (Members of Constitutionally Protected Superannuation Funds) Assessment and Collection Act 1997* (Cwlth), section 38, definition *trustee* in relation to the scheme as a constitutionally protected superannuation fund under the Commonwealth Act.
- (2) The Minister is taken to manage the scheme.

(3) In this section—

scheme means the scheme established by this Act for providing pensions to former Governors and the surviving partners of deceased Governors.

23 Regulation-making power

The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

Part 5 Transitional provisions

24 Salary payable to Governor immediately before commencement

- (1) This section applies to the person who holds the office immediately before the commencement of this section.
- (2) The salary payable to the person immediately before the commencement continues to be the salary payable to the person as Governor, despite section 3.

25 No entitlement to pension if no pension payable under the Governors' Pensions Act 1977

If, immediately before the commencement of this section, a pension under the *Governors' Pensions Act 1977* was not payable to a former Governor or a surviving partner of a deceased Governor, a pension does not become payable to the former Governor or surviving partner on the commencement.

Part 6 **Repeals**

26 **Repeal of Acts**

The following Acts are repealed—

- Governors' Pensions Act 1977 No. 1
- Governor's Salary Act 1872 36 Vic No. 9.

Schedule Dictionary

section 2

accountable Governor, for part 3, division 4, see section 17.

actuary means a person with actuarial knowledge and experience.

agreement, for part 3, division 3, subdivision 2, see section 16A.

appointment resolution, for part 3, division 4, see section 17.

approved deposit fund see the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (Cwlth), section 10.

cease to hold the office does not including dying while holding the office.

court order, for part 3, division 3, subdivision 2, see section 16A.

deceased Governor means—

- (a) a person who died while holding the office; or
- (b) a person who died after the person ceased to hold the office.

entitled former spouse, for part 3, division 3, subdivision 2, see section 16A.

established tribunal, for part 3, division 4, see section 17.

Family Law Act, for part 3, division 3, subdivision 2, see section 16A.

former Governor means a person who held the office but who is not deceased.

Governor means the person holding the office.

lump sum see section 17.

office means the office of Governor of the State of Queensland.

operative time, for part 3, division 3, subdivision 2, see section 16A.

payable, relating to a pension, means payable under this Act, including continuing to be payable under this Act.

prescribed entitlement, for part 3, division 4, see section 17.

superannuation fund see the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* (Cwlth), section 10.

surviving partner means the following—

- (a) a person who was married to, or in a civil partnership with, a deceased Governor at the time of the deceased Governor's death;
- (b) a de facto partner of a deceased Governor if before the death of the deceased Governor—
 - (i) the de facto partner and the Governor or former Governor had a de facto relationship for a continuous period of at least 2 years ending on the death; or
 - (ii) the de facto partner and the Governor or former Governor had a de facto relationship for a shorter period ending on the death but the circumstances of the de facto relationship evidenced a clear intention that the relationship be a long term, committed relationship.