
SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 8

MODEL RULES FOR AN OWNERS CORPORATION

1 Health, safety and security

1.1 Health, safety and security of lot owners, occupiers of lots and others

A lot owner or occupier must not use the lot, or permit it to be used, so as to cause a hazard to the health, safety and security of an owner, occupier, or user of another lot.

1.2 Storage of flammable liquids and other dangerous substances and materials

- (1) Except with the approval in writing of the owners corporation, an owner or occupier of a lot must not use or store on the lot or on the common property any flammable chemical, liquid or gas or other flammable material.
- (2) This rule does not apply to—
 - (a) chemicals, liquids, gases or other material used or intended to be used for domestic purposes; or
 - (b) any chemical, liquid, gas or other material in a fuel tank of a motor vehicle or internal combustion engine.

1.3 Waste disposal

An owner or occupier must ensure that the disposal of garbage or waste does not adversely affect the health, hygiene or comfort of the occupiers or users of other lots.

2 Management and administration

2.1 Metering of services and apportionment of costs of services

- (1) The owners corporation must not seek payment or reimbursement for a cost or charge from a lot owner or occupier that is more than the amount that the supplier would have charged the lot owner or occupier for the same goods or services.
- (2) If a supplier has issued an account to the owners corporation, the owners corporation cannot recover from the lot owner or occupier an amount which includes any amount that is able to be claimed as a concession or rebate by or on behalf of the lot owner or occupier from the relevant supplier.
- (3) Subrule (2) does not apply if the concession or rebate—
 - (a) must be claimed by the lot owner or occupier and the owners corporation has given the lot owner or occupier an opportunity to claim it and the lot owner or occupier has not done so by the payment date set by the relevant supplier; or
 - (b) is paid directly to the lot owner or occupier as a refund.

3 Use of common property

3.1 Use of common property

- (1) An owner or occupier of a lot must not obstruct the lawful use and enjoyment of the common property by any other person entitled to use the common property.
 - (2) An owner or occupier of a lot must not, without the written approval of the owners corporation, use for his or her own purposes as a garden any portion of the common property.
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- (3) An approval under subrule (2) may state a period for which the approval is granted.
 - (4) If the owners corporation has resolved that an animal is a danger or is causing a nuisance to the common property, it must give reasonable notice of this resolution to the owner or occupier who is keeping the animal.
 - (5) An owner or occupier of a lot who is keeping an animal that is the subject of a notice under subrule (4) must remove that animal.
 - (6) Subrules (4) and (5) do not apply to an animal that assists a person with an impairment or disability.

3.2 Vehicles and parking on common property

An owner or occupier of a lot must not, unless in the case of an emergency, park or leave a motor vehicle or other vehicle or permit a motor vehicle or other vehicle—

- (a) to be parked or left in parking spaces situated on common property and allocated for other lots; or
- (b) on the common property so as to obstruct a driveway, pathway, entrance or exit to a lot; or
- (c) in any place other than a parking area situated on common property specified for that purpose by the owners corporation.

3.3 Damage to common property

- (1) An owner or occupier of a lot must not damage or alter the common property without the written approval of the owners corporation.
 - (2) An owner or occupier of a lot must not damage or alter a structure that forms part of the common property without the written approval of the owners corporation.
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- (3) An approval under subrule (1) or (2) may state a period for which the approval is granted, and may specify the works and conditions to which the approval is subject.
- (4) An owner or person authorised by an owner may install a locking or safety device to protect the lot against intruders, or a screen or barrier to prevent entry of animals or insects, if the device, screen or barrier is soundly built and is consistent with the colour, style and materials of the building.
- (5) The owner or person referred to in subrule (4) must keep any device, screen or barrier installed in good order and repair.

4 Lots

4.1 Change of use of lots

An owner or occupier of a lot must give written notification to the owners corporation if the owner or occupier changes the existing use of the lot in a way that will affect the insurance premiums for the owners corporation.

Example

If the change of use results in a hazardous activity being carried out on the lot, or results in the lot being used for commercial or industrial purposes rather than residential purposes.

5 Behaviour of persons

5.1 Behaviour of owners, occupiers and invitees on common property

An owner or occupier of a lot must take all reasonable steps to ensure that guests of the owner or occupier do not behave in a manner likely to unreasonably interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of any other person entitled to use the common property.

5.2 Noise and other nuisance control

- (1) An owner or occupier of a lot, or a guest of an owner or occupier, must not unreasonably create any noise likely to interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of any other person entitled to use the common property.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply to the making of a noise if the owners corporation has given written permission for the noise to be made.

6 Dispute resolution

- (1) The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes involving a lot owner, manager, or an occupier or the owners corporation.
 - (2) The party making the complaint must prepare a written statement in the approved form.
 - (3) If there is a grievance committee of the owners corporation, it must be notified of the dispute by the complainant.
 - (4) If there is no grievance committee, the owners corporation must be notified of any dispute by the complainant, regardless of whether the owners corporation is an immediate party to the dispute.
 - (5) The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, along with either the grievance committee or the owners corporation, within 14 working days after the dispute comes to the attention of all the parties.
 - (6) A party to the dispute may appoint a person to act or appear on his or her behalf at the meeting.
 - (7) If the dispute is not resolved, the grievance committee or owners corporation must notify each party of his or her right to take further action under Part 10 of the **Owners Corporations Act 2006**.
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- (8) This process is separate from and does not limit any further action under Part 10 of the **Owners Corporations Act 2006**.
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SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 12

STATEMENT OF ADVICE AND INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS AND LOT OWNERS

What is an owners corporation?

The lot you are considering buying is part of an owners corporation. Whenever a plan of subdivision creates common property, an owners corporation is responsible for managing the common property. A purchaser of a lot that is part of an owners corporation automatically becomes a member of the owners corporation when the transfer of that lot to the purchaser has been registered with Land Victoria.

If you buy into an owners corporation, you will be purchasing not only the individual property, but also ownership of, and the right to use, the common property as set out in the plan of subdivision. This common property may include driveways, stairs, paths, passages, lifts, lobbies, common garden areas and other facilities set up for use by owners and occupiers. In order to identify the boundary between the individual lot you are purchasing (for which the owner is solely responsible) and the common property (for which all members of the owners corporation are responsible), you should closely inspect the plan of subdivision.

How are decisions made by an owners corporation?

As an owner you will be required to make financial contributions to the owners corporation, in particular for the repair, maintenance and management of the common property. Decisions as to the management of this common property will be the subject of collective decision making. Decisions as to these financial contributions, which may involve significant expenditure, will be decided by a vote.

Owners corporation rules

The owners corporation rules may deal with matters such as car parking, noise, pets, the appearance or use of lots, behaviour of owners, occupiers or guests and grievance procedures. You should look at the owners corporation rules to consider any restrictions imposed by the rules.

Lot entitlement and lot liability

The plan of subdivision will also show your lot entitlement and lot liability. Lot liability represents the share of owners corporation expenses that each lot owner is required to pay. Lot entitlement is an owner's share of ownership of the common property, which determines voting rights. You should make sure that the allocation of lot liability and entitlement for the lot you are considering buying seems fair and reasonable.

Further information

If you are interested in finding out more about living in an owners corporation, you can contact Consumer Affairs Victoria. If you require further information about the particular owners corporation you are buying into you can inspect that owners corporation's information register.

Management of an owners corporation

An owners corporation may be self-managed by the lot owners or professionally managed by an owners corporation manager. If an owners corporation chooses to appoint a professional manager, it must be a manager registered with the Business Licensing Authority (BLA).

IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THE OWNERS CORPORATION OR ANY DOCUMENTS YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THE OWNERS CORPORATION YOU SHOULD SEEK EXPERT ADVICE.
