



Abandoned / Unregistered Unroadworthy Motor Vehicle

Policy Intent

The primary purpose of this policy is to facilitate the removal of unregistered unroadworthy motor vehicles on Housing Tasmania sites, specifically tenanted/untenanted properties or vacant land.

Background

The dumping of abandoned motor vehicles and parts in broadacre residential and bush areas, and the storage of unregistered unroadworthy motor vehicles on tenanted Housing Tasmania properties presents a historical problem.

Housing Tasmania regularly receives complaints from tenants and members of the public concerned about vehicles abandoned on Housing Tasmania property. Commonly received complaints include:

- Vehicles in various stages of disrepair being left for extended periods in car park spaces or vacant land;
- Vehicles being dumped in common areas of unit complexes; and
- Storage of car parts and car bodies in front and backyards causing the neighbourhood to look unsightly.

This problem is compounded by community perception particularly in broadacre areas that Housing Tasmania (as a major vacant land owner) is responsible for the removal of dumped motor vehicles, even though the land may be privately owned.

Definition of Motor Vehicle / Parts

Section 3.6C of the Lease Agreement states:

'Vehicle' includes car, truck, bus, caravan, boat, motorcycle and any other vehicle that may be licensed or registered. 'Vehicle' includes vehicle parts.

Abandoned Motor Vehicle

An abandoned vehicle on a Housing Tasmania property is not necessarily an unregistered or old vehicle. A vehicle is treated as abandoned if it is:

- Dumped on vacant land (environmental or safety hazard) and Tasmania Police have advised that the identify of the owner cannot be established;
- Left behind by a former tenant at the property (Abandoned Goods Policy may apply); or

The owner of the motor vehicle has not responded to Housing Tasmania's request to remove the vehicle within a specified timeframe.



Entitlement	Housing Tasmania will make every reasonable effort to contact the owner of an abandoned motor vehicle left on a Housing Tasmania property or vacant land and provide them with an opportunity to remove it.
Authority to dispose	<p>Housing Tasmania cannot dispose of an abandoned motor vehicle unless one or more of the following criteria is met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The owner's consent is obtained in writing; orb) The owner has not responded to housing Tasmania formal request to remove the vehicle within specified timeframes; orc) Ownership of the vehicle cannot be determined (vehicles without registration plates and missing vehicle identification numbers); or <p>The vehicle is considered to be abandoned by Tasmania Police.</p>
Breach of Tenancy Agreement	<p>A tenant is in breach of their Tenancy Agreement if they, or a member of their household, stores or abandons a vehicle on public housing common property. This applies to vehicles left in backyards, common areas and open carports. Section 3.6C of the Lease Agreement states:</p> <p><i>"you must not keep any unregistered or unroadworthy vehicle on the premises unless you have our written permission to do so"</i></p>
Removal Options for tenants	Removal options for tenants in disposal of abandoned or unregistered unroadworthy motor vehicles include referral to local auto salvage yards, classified advertisements in local newspapers, business which hire out trailers and metal recycling firms. As a last resort Housing Tasmania, with written consent, may arrange removal at the tenant's expense.
Referral Options for staff	<p>On notification of an abandoned or unregistered unroadworthy motor vehicles staff are able to seek information on, or refer the matter to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tasmania Police to ascertain the official status of the vehicle;• Registrar of Motor Vehicles to ascertain registered ownership details;• Local Council, where a vehicle is abandoned on a street;• The private property owner [www.thelist.tas.gov.au/], where a vehicle is abandoned on privately owned vacant land; or <p>The tenant and request the removal of motor vehicles on Housing Tasmania property.</p>



Processes

There are four separate processes for Housing Tasmania staff to follow in removing abandoned motor vehicles. The process to follow depends on the location of the vehicle, for example on:

1. Abandoned or vacated Housing Tasmania rental properties;
2. Tenanted Housing Tasmania rental properties;
3. Housing Tasmania car parks or vacant land; and
4. The street

Forms

There are four separate letters and notices which can be used by Housing Tasmania staff. These are a:

- Letter to the tenant;
- Tenant consent form;
- Letter to the motor vehicle owner; and
- Facsimile form (Registrar of Motor Vehicles).

Removal costs

Depending on the location of the motor vehicle, costs for the removal will be met by:

- The tenant (vehicle on public rental property);
- The former tenant (vehicle on abandoned / vacated public rental property);
- The registered motor vehicle owner (vehicle on Housing Tasmania car parks / vacant land); or
- By Housing Tasmania if the vehicle owner cannot be identified (vehicle on Housing Tasmania car parks / vacant land).

It is more cost effective for tenants to remove vehicles privately without Housing Tasmania involvement. However, tenants may elect for Housing Tasmania to remove the motor vehicle at the tenant's expense. The cost (which can be obtained by contacting Housing Tasmania) will be debited by the Tenancy Officer on the tenant's rental account with an arrangement to repay the debt in place.

For further information relating to this policy please email the helpdesk housing.policyhelpdesk@dhhs.tas.gov.au