



Australian Government

National Archives of Australia

AFDA Express Version 2
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Property Management

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INTRODUCTION

The National Archives of Australia (National Archives) has developed this records authority to set out the requirements for keeping or destroying records for the general administrative function of Property Management.

This records authority is based on the identification and analysis of the Property Management function. The records authority sets out those records that need to be retained as national archives and specifies the minimum length of time that temporary records need to be kept. This records authority gives agencies permission under the *Archives Act 1983*, for the destruction of the temporary records described after the minimum retention period has expired. Retention periods for these temporary records are based on: an assessment of business needs; broader organisational accountability requirements; and community expectations.

As changes in circumstances may affect future records management requirements, this authority may occasionally be amended by the addition of new classes and the variation of existing classes. The National Archives will notify agencies of any such changes.

APPLICATION OF THIS AUTHORITY

1. This authority supersedes:

- classes 1782-1786, 20978-21000, 1792-1795, 1797-1805, 1807-1809, 1811-1815, 1819-1820, 1822-1827, 1829-1833, 1834-1835, 1836-1876, 1878-1879, 1881, 1886 in the Property Management function of the *Administrative Functions Disposal Authority* (2010); and
- classes 20318-20328 in the Property Management function of *AFDA Express* (March 2010).

The superseded records classes cannot be used to sentence records after the date of issue of this authority.

2. This authority should be used in conjunction with record authorities issued to agencies for their core business and other General Records Authorities issued by the National Archives.
3. This records authority is to be used to determine how long records must be kept. Records are matched to the relevant core business and records class in the records authority:
 - Where the minimum retention period has expired and the records are not needed for agency business they should be destroyed as authorised in this records authority.
 - Records that have not reached the minimum retention period must be kept until they do.
 - Records that are identified as Retain as National Archives (RNA) are to be transferred to the National Archives for preservation.
4. The Normal Administrative Practice (NAP) provision of the *Archives Act 1983* gives agencies permission to destroy certain records without formal authorisation. This usually occurs where records are duplicated, facilitative or for short-term use only. NAP does not replace arrangements agreed to in this records authority but can be used as a tool to assist in identifying records for destruction together with this records authority and other records authorities specifically issued to an agency. The National Archives recommends that agencies develop and implement a Normal Administrative Practice policy. Advice and guidance on destroying records as a normal administrative practice and on how to develop an agency NAP policy is available from the National Archives' website at www.naa.gov.au.
5. Records that are reasonably likely to be needed as evidence in a current or future judicial proceeding or are subject to a request for access under the *Archives Act 1983*, the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* or any other relevant act must not be destroyed until the action has been completed.
6. Records subject to a disposal freeze must not be destroyed until the freeze has been lifted. Further information about disposal freezes and whether they affect the application of this records authority is available from the National Archives website at www.naa.gov.au.
7. Where the method of recording information changes (for example from a manual system to a digital system, or when information is migrated from one system to a new system) this records authority can still

be applied, providing the records document the same core business. The information must be accessible for the period of time prescribed in this records authority. There is a need to maintain continuing access to the information, including digital information, for the periods prescribed in this records authority or until the information is transferred into the custody of the National Archives.

8. In general retention requirements indicate a minimum period for retention. Agencies may extend minimum retention periods if there is an administrative need to do so, without further reference to the National Archives. Where an agency believes that its accountability will be substantially compromised because a retention period is not adequate, please contact the National Archives for review of the retention period.
9. Records coming within 'retain as national archives' classes in this authority have been determined to be part of the archival resources of the Commonwealth under section 3C of the *Archives Act 1983*. The determination of Commonwealth records as archival resources of the Commonwealth obliges agencies to transfer the records to the National Archives when they cease to be current and, in any event, within 15 years of the records coming into existence, under section 27 of the *Archives Act 1983*.
10. Under some records classes the transfer of custody and ownership of Commonwealth records is directed in the disposal action. This authority permits the transfer of these records under section 24(2)(b) of the *Archives Act 1983*, subject to them no longer being needed as evidence for further Commonwealth liability (eg for compensation issues). If there are any doubts in relation to this requirement, copies should be made of the records before they are transferred.
11. Records in the care of agencies should be appropriately stored, managed and preserved. Agencies need to meet this obligation to ensure that the records remain authentic and accessible over time. Under Section 31 of the *Archives Act 1983*, access arrangements are required for records that become available for public access including those records that remain in agency custody.
12. Appropriate arrangements must be made with the National Archives when records are to be transferred into custody. The National Archives accepts for transfer only those records designated as national archives, and in line with an approved transfer schedule.
13. Advice on how to use this authority is available from your agency's information manager. If there are problems with the application of the authority that cannot be resolved, please contact the National Archives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance with this records authority or for advice on other records management matters, please contact National Archives' [Agency Service Centre](#).

AUTHORISATION

RECORDS AUTHORITY 2019/00283402

Person to whom notice of authorisation is given:

Heads of Commonwealth institutions under the *Archives Act 1983*.

Purpose:

Authorises arrangements for the disposal of records in accordance with section 24(2)(b) of the *Archives Act 1983*.

Determines records classed as 'retain as national archives' in this records authority to be part of the archival resources of the Commonwealth under section 3C of the *Archives Act 1983*.

Application:

All records relating to the following general administrative business area: Property Management.

This authority gives permission for the destruction, retention or transfer to the National Archives of Australia of the records described. This authority will apply only if these actions take place with the consent of the agency responsible for the administrative business documented in the records.

Authorising Officer

Linda Macfarlane
Assistant Director- General (Acting)
National Archives of Australia

Date of issue:

18 July 2019

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The function of managing land and working, storage or living spaces within premises, and of acquiring, constructing, fitting-out, managing, maintaining, preserving, protecting and disposing of premises. Includes all land, structures and buildings (ie immoveable assets) owned, rented, leased or managed by the Commonwealth or Commonwealth institutions, including those properties identified as being of national significance. Also includes the removal of pollutants and waste.

Nationally significant properties are those properties with natural, historic and cultural significance, including those that:

- have recognised heritage value, such as being listed in the Register of the National Estate, by the World Heritage Commission, classified by the National Trust or on State or Territory heritage listings;
- are controversial or have generated considerable public interest during construction or design, or as a result of proposals for development;
- are important local or regional landmarks, or landmark properties of national institutions;
- have been recognised for architectural or design excellence;
- embody national, local or indigenous cultural or historic significance, including structures with a strong or special association with the community or possessing high aesthetic attributes valued by the community. Includes properties of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander importance; or
- are specialised, innovative or purpose-built premises that have unique design features for purposes of supporting the core functions of agencies (eg Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Lucas Heights facility; Bureau of Meteorology radar installations; Department of Home Affairs migrant facilities and detention and processing centres). Includes buildings that pioneer non-standard construction materials and methods (eg eco-friendly construction techniques).

Note: Care should be taken when using this function for records covering the management of specialised premises that support core functions, as there may be unique requirements for these premises that will necessitate specific coverage within an agency's own records authority.

The **core activities** include:

- acquiring (eg through purchase or compulsory acquisition) property (ie immoveable assets), including buildings and land. Includes making investigations into potential acquisitions;
- receiving and assessing tenders relating to the procurement and management of land and buildings (ie immoveable assets), including tenders for the construction, maintenance and fitting-out of buildings. Includes due diligence checks;
- leasing immoveable assets (ie where the agency is the lessee), including accommodation, buildings and land. Includes negotiating and signing leases, managing leasing arrangements and administration of short term property rentals;
- managing claims and compensation appeals relating to the compulsory acquisition of property;
- constructing, conserving, preserving, restoring, rehabilitating and carrying out enhancements to property;
- managing fit-outs and refurbishments, including fixtures such as floor and window coverings, partitions/walls and fittings;
- maintaining properties, including upkeep and repairs;
- managing the performance of work or the provision of goods and services by an external contractor, vendor or consultant (ie managing contracting-out) in support of the property management function. Includes managing warranties, guarantees and related claims for work undertaken;
- installing equipment and plant in properties;
- implementing counter-disaster plans for properties after disasters such as fire and floods;
- carrying out inspections, including routine inspections to determine compliance, building construction inspections and inspections to determine the existence of hazardous materials;

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- removing and disposing of hazardous material;
- disposing of property, including by sale, transfer, termination of lease, auction, donation or destruction;
- leasing-out agency immovable assets (ie where the agency is the lessor), such as accommodation, buildings and land, to other bodies or individuals (eg leasing residential accommodation to individual employees). Includes negotiating and signing leases and ongoing management of leases;
- creating inventories to support the property management function;
- collecting, managing and disposing of items of property lost by agency staff or members of the public on agency premises;
- arranging moves between property locations, such as the relocation of an agency's business operations;
- managing traffic control and parking for agency properties;
- monitoring building management systems (including security systems); and
- managing property security arrangements, including protecting properties against accidental or intentional damage or from unauthorised access, and investigating security breaches or incidents.

The performance of the function is supported by **general activities** such as:

- developing and implementing property management policies and procedures, including emergency procedures;
- providing and receiving advice;
- negotiating, establishing, managing, implementing and reviewing agreements and contracts, including joint venture agreements and memoranda of understanding;
- managing and maintaining registers, including property and contract registers;
- making administrative arrangements to support property management activities, including arrangements for the use of properties;
- planning, conducting and facilitating audits;
- establishing, managing and participating in committees, meetings, working groups and other bodies;
- fulfilling compliance requirements, including fiscal, legal, regulatory and quality standards and requirements, including implementing industry and agency standards and codes of practice;
- delegating powers and authorising actions;
- planning and reporting;
- managing property insurance policies and claims;
- evaluating and reviewing; and
- identifying, assessing and managing risks.

Cross references to AFDA Express records authority

For managing financial transactions relating to property management, including payment of insurance premiums, use FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

For the acquisition of goods and services to support the property management function, including tendering for the provision of security services, use PROCUREMENT.

For the management, maintenance and installation of moveable assets that are not part of a fit-out, use ASSET MANAGEMENT.

For the installation and maintenance of technology and telecommunications facilities, systems and hardware (eg installing and configuring agency servers), use TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.

For managing legal activities supporting property management, including receiving legal advice and any litigation resulting from compulsory acquisition of property, use LEGAL SERVICES.

For the issue of security passes and identity cards to staff, and arrangements supporting the relocation of individual employees, use PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

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For routine work health and safety inspections of hazardous substances in the workplace, use WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY.

For agency submissions to the portfolio Minister or Cabinet, including seeking support for acquisition, construction, renovation, maintenance or restoration projects, use EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

For developing and executing contracts under seal or deeds, including signed joint venture contracts under seal and deeds relating to the transfer of property, use CONTRACTS UNDER SEAL/DEEDS.

Cross references to other records authorities

For the transfer of records to contractors providing services on behalf of or to the Australian Government under outsourcing arrangements, use General Records Authority 40 – Transfer of custody of records under Australian Government outsourcing arrangements.

Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
62664	<p>Records documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summary records created to facilitate the management of property owned by the organisation (eg deed registers, property registers and land registers); • major security breaches or incidents (eg which result in the laying of charges, or where sabotage is strongly suspected), including break-ins, unauthorised access or intrusions into restricted areas, terrorism, intentional damage, bomb threats, and fires. Includes records of investigations and liaison with and referral to law-enforcement agencies; <p><i>[For minor security breaches or incidents (eg which do not relate to the laying of charges, or where sabotage is not suspected), use class 62671.</i></p> <p><i>For security breaches or incidents involving information technology systems or relating to Commonwealth records and information, use TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.</i></p> <p><i>For security breaches or incidents relating to moveable assets (eg vehicle theft), use ASSET MANAGEMENT.</i></p> <p><i>For disciplinary action resulting from a breach involving APS employees, use PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restoration and rehabilitation of land contaminated by hazardous substances (such as asbestos), following the removal and disposal of those substances. Includes environmental impact statements and records of remedial action; and <p><i>[For inspections to identify the type of contamination and removal of contamination, use class 62665.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquisition, management and disposal of properties of national significance (see function scope note). Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ acquiring properties of national significance, including through commissioning, purchase and compulsory acquisition. Includes acquisition of property through a tendering process. Includes property investigations and reports, photographs, maps, environmental impact assessments, budgetary estimates, cost benefit analyses, purchase negotiations and resulting contracts; <p><i>[For appeals made against the compulsory acquisition of land, use class 62667.</i></p> <p><i>For Deeds and Certificates of Title for property, use class 62669.</i></p>	Retain as national archives

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Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
	<p data-bbox="424 331 1222 365"><i>For leasing of properties of national significance, use class 62671.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="424 383 1254 562">○ construction activities carried out on properties of national significance, including design and construction of new buildings and structures, major renovations and additions to existing buildings. Includes stakeholder consultations (eg with owners and local authorities), specifications, building plans, and project management records; <li data-bbox="424 580 1254 730">○ internal and external committees, working groups and other bodies formed to consider the acquisition and management of properties of national significance. Includes establishment documentation, agenda, final versions of minutes, briefs, reports, recommendations, and tabled papers; <li data-bbox="424 748 1182 898">○ major maintenance activities undertaken to repair, service, maintain or modify properties of national significance (ie the maintenance history of a building). Includes plans of major maintenance works undertaken, stakeholder consultations, outcomes, warranties, and final approved agreements; <p data-bbox="424 916 1166 976"><i>[For routine upkeep, repair and maintenance of properties, not involving hazardous materials, use class 62671.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="424 994 1246 1144">○ conservation, preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement activities undertaken for properties of national significance. Includes applications, heritage impact assessments, approvals, stakeholder consultations, plans, site inspections, agreements, warranties and records of remedial action; <li data-bbox="424 1162 1238 1283">○ implementing counter-disaster plans after disasters such as fires and floods to properties of national significance. Includes a copy of the plan implemented in the disaster and records of repairs made following a disaster; <li data-bbox="424 1301 1238 1451">○ major installation of equipment and plant in properties of national significance and adjusting it for use (eg heating, air-conditioning, security equipment and cabling for communications networks). Includes arranging installations and location details (eg fire panels, alarm panels); <p data-bbox="424 1469 1238 1559"><i>[For the installation of cabling from the wall socket to the device and configuration of network hubs, use TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="424 1576 1222 1727">○ fit-outs of properties of national significance to establish or refurbish a workplace, including painting, floor and window coverings, furniture, and partitions. Includes economic justification, notification of intent and assessment of obligations regarding heritage properties; <li data-bbox="424 1744 1254 1865">○ final versions of plans to support the management of properties of national significance, including floor plans, counter-disaster plans, maintenance plans, space use plans, and engineering services layouts; <li data-bbox="424 1883 1230 1973">○ final versions of formal reports and reports made to external agencies on properties of national significance. Includes reports based on Commonwealth Property Principles; 	

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Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reviews of programs and operations impacting on the management of properties of national significance. Includes establishing documentation, final review report, recommendations and action plan; ○ disposing of properties of national significance, including by sale, transfer, termination of lease, auction, donation, or destruction. Includes records of assessments and investigations, valuation certificates, details of preparations undertaken before disposal (ie 'making good'), and instruments of disposal, including sales contracts. <p><i>[For the acquisition, management and disposal of properties without national significance, use class 62668.]</i></p>	
62665	<p>Records documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audits (internal and external) and inspections undertaken to determine whether hazardous substances, such as asbestos, are present in the fabric of a building, structure or land. Includes final reports, major drafts, minutes of meetings, liaison with the auditing body, and comments and notes from opening and exit interviews; and <p><i>[For work health and safety related routine inspections and management of hazardous substances in the workplace, including routine inspections of asbestos material and monitoring of airborne contaminants, use WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY.</i></p> <p><i>For construction site inspections of works commissioned by the agency, use classes 62664 and 62668.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing and disposing of hazardous substances (including asbestos) from the fabric of a building, structure or land. <p><i>[For restoring and rehabilitating land contaminated by hazardous substances (following the removal and disposal of those substances), use class 62664.]</i></p>	<p>Destroy 75 years after last action, or transfer copies to new owner if sold before this date (see Application Note 10 of this authority for advice on the transfer of Commonwealth records.)</p>
62666	<p>Records documenting removal, storage and disposal of hazardous waste (eg chemicals from laboratories and pesticides).</p> <p><i>[For the removal of non-toxic waste from properties, use class 62671.]</i></p>	<p>Destroy 30 years after action completed</p>
62667	<p>Records documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • claims and any subsequent appeals made against the compulsory acquisition of property and/or the level of compensation; and <p><i>[For the compulsory acquisition of properties, use classes 62664 and 62668.</i></p> <p><i>For legal advice and any litigation resulting from compulsory acquisition of property, use LEGAL SERVICES.</i></p> <p><i>For insurance claims for damages to and/or loss of property, use class 62671.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • internal reporting and reports made to external authorities relating to properties without national significance. Includes final versions, major drafts, stakeholder consultation and supporting research. <p><i>[For reporting on properties of national significance, use class 62664.</i></p>	<p>Destroy 10 years after action completed</p>

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Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
	<p><i>For agency reports to the portfolio Minister or Cabinet relating to acquisition, construction, renovation, maintenance or restoration projects for properties without national significance, use EXTERNAL RELATIONS.</i></p> <p><i>For reporting on general administrative and operational matters associated with the property management function that are not associated with a particular property, use class 62671.]</i></p>	
62668	<p>Records documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquisition, management and disposal of properties without national significance (see function scope note). Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ acquiring properties without national significance, including through commissioning, purchase and compulsory acquisition. Includes acquisition of property through a tendering process. Includes property investigations and reports, photographs, maps, environmental impact assessments, budgetary estimates, cost benefit analyses, purchase negotiations and resulting contracts; <p><i>[For appeals made against the compulsory acquisition of land, use class 62667.</i></p> <p><i>For Deeds and Certificates of Title for property, use class 62669.</i></p> <p><i>For leasing of properties without national significance, use class 62671.]</i></p> ○ construction activities, including construction of new buildings and structures, major renovations and additions to existing buildings. Includes stakeholder consultations (eg owners and local authorities), specifications, building plans, and project management records; ○ major maintenance activities undertaken to repair, service, maintain or modify properties without national significance (ie the maintenance history of a building). Includes plans of major maintenance works undertaken, stakeholder consultations, outcomes, warranties, and final approved agreements; <p><i>[For ongoing routine upkeep, repair and maintenance of properties, not involving hazardous materials, use class 62671.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ conservation, preservation, protection, restoration and enhancement activities undertaken for properties without national significance. Includes applications, heritage impact assessments, approvals, stakeholder consultations, plans, site inspections, agreements, warranties and records of remedial action; <p><i>[For records relating to the restoration and rehabilitation of land contaminated by hazardous substances, use class 62664.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ implementing counter-disaster plans after disasters such as fires and floods to properties without national significance. Includes a copy of the plan implemented in the disaster and records of repairs made following a disaster; ○ installation of equipment and plant in properties and adjusting it for use (eg heating, air-conditioning, security equipment and cabling for communications networks) for properties without national significance. Includes arranging installations and location 	<p>Destroy 10 years after property is disposed of, or transfer to new owner or lessee if required (see Application Note 10 of this authority for advice on the transfer of Commonwealth records.)</p>

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Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
	<p>details (eg fire panels, alarm panels).</p> <p><i>[For the installation of cabling from the wall socket to the device and configuration of network hubs, use TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fit-outs of properties to establish or refurbish a workplace, including painting, floor and window coverings, furniture, and partitions. Includes economic justification and any required notification of intent; ○ disposing of properties without national significance, including by sale, transfer, termination of lease, auction, donation, or destruction. Includes records of assessments and investigations, valuation certificates, details of preparations undertaken before disposal (ie 'making good'), and instruments of disposal, including sales contracts. <p><i>[For the acquisition, management and disposal of properties of national significance, use class 62664.</i></p> <p><i>For agency submissions to the portfolio Minister or Cabinet relating to acquisition, construction, renovation, maintenance or restoration projects for properties without national significance, use EXTERNAL RELATIONS.]</i></p>	
62669	<p>Deeds and certificates of title for property owned by the agency.</p> <p><i>[For the acquisition and disposal of properties of national significance, use class 62664.</i></p> <p><i>For the acquisition and disposal of buildings without national significance, including compulsory acquisition, use class 62671.]</i></p>	<p>Transfer to new owner when property is disposed of (see Application Note 10 of this authority for advice on the transfer of Commonwealth records.)</p>
62670	<p>Records documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unsuccessful tenders or a tender process where there is no suitable bidder, or where the tender has been discontinued. Includes submissions, notification of outcome and reports on debriefing and feedback sessions; • leasing and leasing-out of property which is not proceeded with, including initial investigations and associated correspondence; <p><i>[For the successful leasing and leasing-out of properties, use classes 62664 and 62671.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collecting, managing and disposing of items of property lost by agency staff or members of the public on agency premises. Includes correspondence with owners of lost property; property deposit/claim receipts; and records of disposal arrangements (eg destruction, sale, return of property); <p><i>[For registers of lost property and procedures and protocols supporting the management of lost property, use class 62671.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removal of non-toxic waste, including classified waste; 	<p>Destroy 3 years after action completed</p>

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Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • routine arrangements for the use of properties, including parking arrangements and facility bookings; • annual renewal of property insurance policies (eg building insurance policies); • working papers documenting the development of agency procedures supporting the property management function. Includes drafts and stakeholder feedback. <p><i>[For final versions of agency procedures supporting the property management function, use classes 62671]</i></p>	
62671	<p>Records documenting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • routine operational administrative tasks supporting the function; and • property management activities, other than those covered in classes 62664 to 62670. 	Destroy 7 years after action completed