

WARNING TO ESTATE AGENTS
DO NOT USE THIS CONTRACT FOR SALES OF 'OFF THE PLAN' PROPERTIES
UNLESS IT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY A LEGAL PRACTITIONER

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Contract of Sale of Real Estate

Part 1 of the form of contract published by the Law Institute of Victoria Limited and The Real Estate Institute of Victoria Ltd

Property address: _____

VOID

The vendor agrees to sell and the purchaser agrees to buy the property, being the land and the goods, for the price and on the terms set out in this contract.

The terms of this contract are contained in the –

- particulars of sale; and
- special conditions, if any; and
- general conditions

in that order of priority.

SIGNING OF THIS CONTRACT

WARNING: THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT, YOU SHOULD READ THIS CONTRACT BEFORE SIGNING IT

Purchasers should ensure that, prior to signing this contract, they have received –

- a copy of the section 32 statement required to be given by a vendor under section 32 of the *Sale of Land Act* 1962 in accordance with Division 2 of Part II of that Act; and
- a copy of the full terms of this contract.

The authority of a person signing –

- under power of attorney; or
- as director of a corporation; or
- as agent authorised in writing by one of the parties –

must be noted beneath the signature.

Any person whose signature is secured by an estate agent acknowledges being given by the agent at the time of signing a copy of the terms of this contract.

SIGNED BY THE PURCHASER:

..... on / /

..... on / /

Print name(s) of person(s) signing:

State nature of authority, if applicable: _____

This offer will lapse unless accepted within [] clear business days (3 clear business days if none specified)

SIGNED BY THE VENDOR:

..... on / /

..... on / /

Print name(s) of person(s) signing:

State nature of authority, if applicable: _____

The **DAY OF SALE** is the date by which both parties have signed this contract.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PURCHASERS

Cooling-off period (Section 31 of the *Sale of Land Act* 1962)

You may end this contract within 3 clear business days of the day that you sign the contract if none of the exceptions listed below applies to you.

You must either give the vendor or the vendor's agent **written** notice that you are ending the contract or leave the notice at the address of the vendor or the vendor's agent to end this contract within this time in accordance with this cooling-off provision.

You are entitled to a refund of all the money you paid EXCEPT for \$100 or 0.2% of the purchase price (whichever is more) if you end the contract in this way.

EXCEPTIONS: the 3-day cooling-off period does not apply if:

- you bought the property at or within 3 clear business days **before or after** a publicly advertised auction;
- the property is used primarily for industrial or commercial purposes; or
- the property is more than 20 hectares in size and is used primarily for farming; or
- you and the vendor previously signed a contract for the sale of the same land in substantially the same terms; or
- you are an estate agent or a corporate body.

*This contract is approved by the Law Institute of Victoria Limited, a professional association within the meaning of the *Legal Profession Act* 2004, under section 53A of the *Estate Agents Act* 1980.

NOTICE TO PURCHASERS OF PROPERTY OFF-THE-PLAN

Off-the-plan sales (Section 9AA(1A) of the *Sale of Land Act 1962*)

You may negotiate with the vendor about the amount of the deposit moneys payable under the contract of sale, up to 10 per cent of the purchase price.

A substantial period of time may elapse between the day on which you sign

the contract of sale and the day on which you become the registered proprietor of the lot.

The value of the lot may change between the day on which you sign the contract of sale of that lot and the day on which you become the registered proprietor.

Particulars of sale

Vendor's estate agent

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Ref: _____

Tel: _____ Mob: _____ Fax: _____

Vendor

Name: _____

Address: _____

ABN/ACN: _____ Email: _____

Vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Ref: _____

Tel: _____ Mob: _____ Fax: _____

Purchaser

Name: _____

Address: _____

ABN/ACN: _____ Email: _____

Purchaser's legal practitioner or conveyancer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Ref: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ DX: _____

Land (general conditions 3 and 9)

The land is described in the table below –

Certificate of Title reference		being lot	on plan
Volume	Folio		
Volume	Folio		
Volume	Folio		

OR

described in the copy of the Register Search Statement and the document or part document referred to as the diagram location in the Register Search Statement, as attached to the section 32 statement if no title or plan references are recorded in the table above or as described in the section 32 statement if the land is general law land. The land includes all improvements and fixtures.

Property address

The address of the land is: _____

Goods sold with the land (general condition 2.3(f)) (list or attach schedule)

Payment (general condition 11)

Price _____

Deposit _____ by ____ / ____ / ____ (of which _____ has been paid)

Balance _____ payable at settlement

VOID

GST (general condition 13)

The price includes GST (if any) unless the words '**plus GST**' appear in this box

If this sale is a sale of land on which a 'farming business' is carried on which the parties consider meets requirements of section 38-480 of the GST Act or of a 'going concern' then add the words '**farming business**' or '**going concern**' in this box

If the margin scheme will be used to calculate GST then add the words '**margin scheme**' in this box

Settlement (general condition 10)

is due on _____

unless the land is a lot on an unregistered plan of subdivision, in which case settlement is due on the later of:

- the above date; and
- 14 days after the vendor gives notice in writing to the purchaser of registration of the plan of subdivision.

Lease (general condition 1.1)

At settlement the purchaser is entitled to vacant possession of the property unless the words '**subject to lease**' appear in this box in which case refer to general condition 1.1.

If '**subject to lease**' then particulars of the lease are*:

(*only complete the one that applies. Check tenancy agreement/lease **before** completing details)

*residential tenancy agreement for a fixed term ending on _____

OR

*periodic residential tenancy agreement determinable by notice

OR

*lease for a term ending on _____ with [_____] options to renew, each of [_____] years.

Terms contract (general condition 23)

If this contract is intended to be a terms contract within the meaning of the *Sale of Land Act* 1962 then add the words '**terms contract**' in this box and refer to general condition 23 and add any further provisions by way of special conditions.

Loan (general condition 14)

The following details apply if this contract is subject to a loan being approved.

Lender: _____

Loan amount: _____ Approval date: _____

This contract does not include any special conditions unless the words '**special conditions**' appear in this box.

Special Conditions

A SPECIAL CONDITION OPERATES IF THE BOX NEXT TO IT IS CHECKED OR THE PARTIES OTHERWISE AGREE IN WRITING.

Instructions: *It is recommended that when adding further special conditions:*

- each special condition is numbered;
- the parties initial each page containing special conditions;
- a line is drawn through any blank space remaining on the last page; and
- attach additional pages if there is not enough space.

Special condition 1 – Payment

General condition 11 is replaced with the following:

11. PAYMENT

- 11.1 The purchaser must pay the deposit:
- to the vendor's licensed estate agent; or
 - if there is no estate agent, to the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer; or
 - if the vendor directs, into a special purpose account in an authorised deposit-taking institution in Victoria specified by the vendor in the joint names of the purchaser and the vendor.
- 11.2 If the land sold is a lot on an unregistered plan of subdivision, the deposit:
- must not exceed 10% of the price; and
 - must be paid to the vendor's estate agent, legal practitioner or conveyancer and held by the estate agent, legal practitioner or conveyancer on trust for the purchaser until the registration of the plan of subdivision.
- 11.3 The purchaser must pay all money other than the deposit:
- to the vendor, or the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer; or
 - in accordance with a written direction of the vendor or the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer.
- 11.4 Payments may be made or tendered:
- up to \$1,000 in cash; or
 - by cheque drawn on an authorised deposit-taking institution; or
 - by electronic funds transfer to a recipient having the appropriate facilities for receipt.
- However, unless otherwise agreed:
- payment may not be made by credit card, debit card or any other financial transfer system that allows for any chargeback or funds reversal other than for fraud or mistaken payment, and
 - any financial transfer or similar fees or deductions from the funds transferred, other than any fees charged by the recipient's authorised deposit-taking institution, must be paid by the remitter.
- 11.5 At settlement, the purchaser must pay the fees on up to three cheques drawn on an authorised deposit-taking institution. If the vendor requests that any additional cheques be drawn on an authorised deposit-taking institution, the vendor must reimburse the purchaser for the fees incurred.
- 11.6 Payment by electronic funds transfer is made when cleared funds are received in the recipient's bank account.
- 11.7 Before the funds are electronically transferred the intended recipient must be notified in writing and given sufficient particulars to readily identify the relevant transaction.
- 11.8 As soon as the funds have been electronically transferred the intended recipient must be provided with the relevant transaction number or reference details.
- 11.9 Each party must do everything reasonably necessary to assist the other party to trace and identify the recipient of any missing or mistaken payment and to recover the missing or mistaken payment.
- 11.10 For the purpose of this general condition 'authorised deposit-taking institution' means a body corporate for which an authority under section 9(3) of the *Banking Act 1959 (Cth)* is in force.

Special condition 2 – Acceptance of title

General condition 12.4 is added:

- 12.4 Where the purchaser is deemed by section 27(7) of the *Sale of Land Act 1962* to have given the deposit release authorisation referred to in section 27(1), the purchaser is also deemed to have accepted title in the absence of any prior express objection to title.

Special condition 3 – Tax invoice

General condition 13.3 is replaced with the following:

- 13.3 If the vendor makes a taxable supply under this contract (that is not a margin scheme supply) and:
- the price includes GST; or
 - the purchaser is obliged to pay an amount for GST in addition to the price (because the price is "plus GST" or under general condition 13.1(a), (b) or (c)),

the purchaser is not obliged to pay the GST included in the price, or the additional amount payable for GST, until a tax invoice has been provided.

Special condition 4 – Adjustments

General condition 15.3 is added:

- 15.3 The purchaser must provide copies of all certificates and other information used to calculate the adjustments under general condition 15, if requested by the vendor.

Special condition 5 - Foreign resident capital gains withholding

General condition 15A is added:

15A. FOREIGN RESIDENT CAPITAL GAINS WITHHOLDING

- 15A.1 Words defined or used in Subdivision 14-D of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* have the same meaning in this general condition unless the context requires otherwise.
- 15A.2 Every vendor under this contract is a foreign resident for the purposes of this general condition unless the vendor gives the purchaser a clearance certificate issued by the Commissioner under section 14-220 (1) of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*. The specified period in the clearance certificate must include the actual date of settlement.
- 15A.3 This general condition only applies if the purchaser is required to pay the Commissioner an amount in accordance with section 14-200(3) or section 14-235 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* ("the amount") because one or more of the vendors is a foreign resident, the property has or will have a market value not less than the amount set out in section 14-215 of the legislation just after the transaction, and the transaction is not excluded under section 14-215(1) of the legislation.
- 15A.4 The amount is to be deducted from the vendor's entitlement to the contract consideration. The vendor must pay to the purchaser at settlement such part of the amount as is represented by non-monetary consideration.
- 15A.5 The purchaser must:
- (a) engage a legal practitioner or conveyancer ("representative") to conduct all the legal aspects of settlement, including the performance of the purchaser's obligations under the legislation and this general condition; and
 - (b) ensure that the representative does so.
- 15A.6 The terms of the representative's engagement are taken to include instructions to have regard to the vendor's interests and instructions that the representative must:
- (a) pay, or ensure payment of, the amount to the Commissioner in the manner required by the Commissioner and as soon as reasonably and practicably possible, from moneys under the control or direction of the representative in accordance with this general condition if the sale of the property settles;
 - (b) promptly provide the vendor with proof of payment; and
 - (c) otherwise comply, or ensure compliance, with this general condition;
- despite:
- (d) any contrary instructions, other than from both the purchaser and the vendor; and
 - (e) any other provision in this contract to the contrary.
- 15A.7 The representative is taken to have complied with the requirements of general condition 15A.6 if:
- (a) the settlement is conducted through the electronic conveyancing system operated by Property Exchange Australia Ltd or any other electronic conveyancing system agreed by the parties; and
 - (b) the amount is included in the settlement statement requiring payment to the Commissioner in respect of this transaction.
- 15A.8 Any clearance certificate or document evidencing variation of the amount in accordance with section 14-235(2) of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* must be given to the purchaser at least 5 business days before the due date for settlement.
- 15A.9 The vendor must provide the purchaser with such information as the purchaser requires to comply with the purchaser's obligation to pay the amount in accordance with section 14-200 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*. The information must be provided within 5 business days of request by the purchaser. The vendor warrants that the information the vendor provides is true and correct.
- 15A.10 The purchaser is responsible for any penalties or interest payable to the Commissioner on account of late payment of the amount.

Special condition 5A – GST withholding

[Note: the box should be checked if the property sold is or may be new residential premises or potential residential land, whether or not falling within the parameters of section 14-250 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*]

General condition 15B is added:

15B. GST WITHHOLDING

- 15B.1 Words and expressions defined or used in Subdivision 14-E of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* or in *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (Cth)* have the same meaning in this general condition unless the context requires otherwise. Words and expressions first used in this general condition and shown in italics and marked with an asterisk are defined or described in at least one of those Acts.

- 15B.2 This general condition 15B applies if the purchaser is required to pay the Commissioner an *amount in accordance with section 14-250 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* because the property is *new residential premises or *potential residential land in either case falling within the parameters of that section, and also if the sale attracts the operation of section 14-255 of the legislation. Nothing in this general condition 15B is to be taken as relieving the vendor from compliance with section 14-255.
- 15B.3 The amount is to be deducted from the vendor's entitlement to the contract *consideration and is then taken to be paid to the vendor, whether or not the vendor provides the purchaser with a GST withholding notice in accordance with section 14-255 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*. The vendor must pay to the purchaser at settlement such part of the amount as is represented by non-monetary consideration.
- 15B.4 The purchaser must:
- (a) engage a legal practitioner or conveyancer ("representative") to conduct all the legal aspects of settlement, including the performance of the purchaser's obligations under the legislation and this general condition; and
 - (b) ensure that the representative does so.
- 15B.5 The terms of the representative's engagement are taken to include instructions to have regard to the vendor's interests relating to the payment of the amount to the Commissioner and instructions that the representative must:
- (a) pay, or ensure payment of, the amount to the Commissioner in the manner required by the Commissioner and as soon as reasonably and practicably possible, from moneys under the control or direction of the representative in accordance with this general condition on settlement of the sale of the property;
 - (b) promptly provide the vendor with evidence of payment, including any notification or other document provided by the purchaser to the Commissioner relating to payment; and
 - (c) otherwise comply, or ensure compliance, with this general condition;
- despite:
- (d) any contrary instructions, other than from both the purchaser and the vendor; and
 - (e) any other provision in this contract to the contrary.
- 15B.6 The representative is taken to have complied with the requirements of general condition 15B.5 if:
- (a) settlement is conducted through the electronic conveyancing system operated by Property Exchange Australia Ltd or any other electronic conveyancing system agreed by the parties; and
 - (b) the amount is included in the settlement statement requiring payment to the Commissioner in respect of this transaction.
- 15B.7 The purchaser may at settlement give the vendor a bank cheque for the amount in accordance with section 16-30 (3) of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*, but only if:
- (a) so agreed by the vendor in writing; and
 - (b) the settlement is not conducted through an electronic settlement system described in general condition 15B.6.
- However, if the purchaser gives the bank cheque in accordance with this general condition 15B.7, the vendor must:
- (c) immediately after settlement provide the bank cheque to the Commissioner to pay the amount in relation to the supply; and
 - (d) give the purchaser a receipt for the bank cheque which identifies the transaction and includes particulars of the bank cheque, at the same time the purchaser gives the vendor the bank cheque.
- 15B.8 The vendor must provide the purchaser with a GST withholding notice in accordance with section 14-255 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* at least 14 days before the due date for settlement.
- 15B.9 A party must provide the other party with such information as the other party requires to:
- (a) decide if an amount is required to be paid or the quantum of it, or
 - (b) comply with the purchaser's obligation to pay the amount,
- in accordance with section 14-250 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*. The information must be provided within 5 business days of a written request. The party providing the information warrants that it is true and correct.
- 15B.10 The vendor warrants that:
- (a) at settlement, the property is not new residential premises or potential residential land in either case falling within the parameters of section 14-250 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* if the vendor gives the purchaser a written notice under section 14-255 to the effect that the purchaser will not be required to make a payment under section 14-250 in respect of the supply, or fails to give a written notice as required by and within the time specified in section 14-255; and
 - (b) the amount described in a written notice given by the vendor to the purchaser under section 14-255 of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)* is the correct amount required to be paid under section 14-250 of the legislation.
- 15B.11 The purchaser is responsible for any penalties or interest payable to the Commissioner on account of non-payment or late payment of the amount, except to the extent that:
- (a) the penalties or interest arise from the vendor's failure, including breach of a warranty in general condition 15B.10; or
 - (b) the purchaser's reasonable belief that the property is neither new residential premises nor potential residential land requiring the purchaser to pay an amount to the Commissioner in accordance with section 14-250 (1) of Schedule 1 to the *Taxation Administration Act 1953 (Cth)*.
- The vendor is responsible for any penalties or interest payable to the Commissioner on account of non-payment or late payment of the amount if either exception applies.
- 15B.12 This general condition will not merge on settlement.

Special condition 6 – Service

General condition 17 is replaced with the following:

17. SERVICE

- 17.1 Any document required to be served by or on any party may be served by or on the legal practitioner or conveyancer for that party.
- 17.2 A document being a cooling off notice under section 31 of the *Sale of Land Act 1962* or a notice under general condition 14.2 (ending the contract if the loan is not approved) may be served on the vendor's legal practitioner, conveyancer or estate agent even if the estate agent's authority has formally expired at the time of service.
- 17.3 A document is sufficiently served:
- (a) personally, or
 - (b) by pre-paid post, or
 - (c) in any manner authorized by law or by the Supreme Court for service of documents, including any manner authorised for service on or by a legal practitioner, whether or not the person serving or receiving the document is a legal practitioner, or
 - (d) by email.
- 17.4 Any document properly sent by:
- (a) express post is taken to have been served on the next business day after posting, unless proved otherwise;
 - (b) priority post is taken to have been served on the fourth business day after posting, unless proved otherwise;
 - (c) regular post is taken to have been served on the sixth business day after posting, unless proved otherwise;
 - (d) email is taken to have been served at the time of receipt within the meaning of section 13A of the *Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000*.
- 17.5 The expression 'document' includes 'demand' and 'notice', and 'service' includes 'give' in this contract.

Special condition 7 – Notices

General condition 21 is replaced with the following:

21. NOTICES

- 21.1 The vendor is responsible for any notice, order, demand or levy imposing liability on the property that is issued or made before the day of sale, and does not relate to periodic outgoings.
- 21.2 The purchaser is responsible for any notice, order, demand or levy imposing liability on the property that is issued or made on or after the day of sale, and does not relate to periodic outgoings.
- 21.3 The purchaser may enter the property to comply with that responsibility where action is required before settlement.

Special condition 8 – Electronic conveyancing

- 8.1 Settlement and lodgment of the instruments necessary to record the purchaser as registered proprietor of the land will be conducted electronically in accordance with the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*. The parties may subsequently agree in writing that this special condition 8 applies even if the box next to it is not checked. This special condition 8 has priority over any other provision to the extent of any inconsistency.
- 8.2 A party must immediately give written notice if that party reasonably believes that settlement and lodgment can no longer be conducted electronically. Special condition 8 ceases to apply from when such a notice is given.
- 8.3 Each party must:
- (a) be, or engage a representative who is, a subscriber for the purposes of the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*,
 - (b) ensure that all other persons for whom that party is responsible and who are associated with this transaction are, or engage, a subscriber for the purposes of the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*, and
 - (c) conduct the transaction in accordance with the *Electronic Conveyancing National Law*.
- 8.4 The vendor must open the Electronic Workspace ("workspace") as soon as reasonably practicable. The inclusion of a specific date for settlement in a workspace is not of itself a promise to settle on that date. The workspace is an electronic address for the service of notices and for written communications for the purposes of any electronic transactions legislation.
- 8.5 The vendor must nominate a time of the day for locking of the workspace at least 7 days before the due date for settlement.
- 8.6 Settlement occurs when the workspace records that:
- (a) the exchange of funds or value between financial institutions in accordance with the instructions of the parties has occurred; or
 - (b) if there is no exchange of funds or value, the documents necessary to enable the purchaser to become registered proprietor of the land have been accepted for electronic lodgment.
- 8.7 The parties must do everything reasonably necessary to effect settlement:
- (a) electronically on the next business day, or
 - (b) at the option of either party, otherwise than electronically as soon as possible –
- if, after the locking of the workspace at the nominated settlement time, settlement in accordance with special condition 8.6 has not occurred by 4.00 pm, or 6.00 pm if the nominated time for settlement is after 4.00 pm.

- 8.8 Each party must do everything reasonably necessary to assist the other party to trace and identify the recipient of any missing or mistaken payment and to recover the missing or mistaken payment.
- 8.9 The vendor must before settlement:
- (a) deliver any keys, security devices and codes ("keys") to the estate agent named in the contract,
 - (b) direct the estate agent to give the keys to the purchaser or the purchaser's nominee on notification of settlement by the vendor, the vendor's subscriber or the Electronic Network Operator;
 - (c) deliver all other physical documents and items (other than the goods sold by the contract) to which the purchaser is entitled at settlement, and any keys if not delivered to the estate agent, to the vendor's subscriber or, if there is no vendor's subscriber, confirm in writing to the purchaser that the vendor holds those documents, items and keys at the vendor's address set out in the contract, and give, or direct its subscriber to give, all those documents and items and any such keys to the purchaser or the purchaser's nominee on notification by the Electronic Network Operator of settlement.
- 8.10 The vendor must, at least 7 days before the due date for settlement, provide the original of any document required to be prepared by the vendor in accordance with general condition 6.

Special condition 9 – Deposit bond

- 9.1 In this special condition:
- (a) "deposit bond" means an irrevocable undertaking by an issuer in a form satisfactory to the vendor to pay on demand an amount equal to the deposit or any unpaid part of the deposit. The deposit bond must have an expiry date at least 30 days after the agreed date for settlement.
 - (b) "issuer" means an entity regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority or the Reserve Bank of New Zealand;
- 9.2 The purchaser may deliver a deposit bond to the vendor's estate agent, legal practitioner or conveyancer within 7 days after the day of sale.
- 9.3 The purchaser may at least 30 days before a current deposit bond expires deliver a replacement deposit bond on the same terms and conditions.
- 9.4 Where a deposit bond is delivered, the purchaser must pay the deposit to the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer on the first to occur of:
- (a) settlement;
 - (b) the date that is 30 days before the deposit bond expires;
 - (c) the date on which this contract ends in accordance with general condition 28.2 following breach by the purchaser; and
 - (d) the date on which the vendor ends this contract by accepting repudiation of it by the purchaser.
- 9.5 The vendor may claim on the deposit bond without prior notice if the purchaser defaults under this contract or repudiates this contract and the contract is ended. The amount paid by the issuer satisfies the obligations of the purchaser under special condition 9.4 to the extent of the payment.
- 9.6 Nothing in this special condition limits the rights of the vendor if the purchaser defaults under this contract or repudiates this contract, except as provided in special condition 9.5.
- 9.7 This special condition is subject to general condition 11.2.

Special condition 10 – Bank guarantee

- 10.1 In this special condition:
- (a) "bank guarantee" means an unconditional and irrevocable guarantee or undertaking by a bank in a form satisfactory to the vendor to pay on demand any amount under this contract agreed in writing, and
 - (b) "bank" means an authorised deposit-taking institution under the *Banking Act 1959 (Cth)*.
- 10.2 The purchaser may deliver a bank guarantee to the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer.
- 10.3 The purchaser must pay the amount secured by the bank guarantee to the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer on the first to occur of:
- (a) settlement;
 - (b) the date that is 30 days before the bank guarantee expires;
 - (c) the date on which this contract ends in accordance with general condition 28.2 following breach by the purchaser; and
 - (d) the date on which the vendor ends this contract by accepting repudiation of it by the purchaser.
- 10.4 The vendor must return the bank guarantee document to the purchaser when the purchaser pays the amount secured by the bank guarantee in accordance with special condition 10.3.
- 10.5 The vendor may claim on the bank guarantee without prior notice if the purchaser defaults under this contract or repudiates this contract and the contract is ended. The amount paid by the bank satisfies the obligations of the purchaser under special condition 10.3 to the extent of the payment.
- 10.6 Nothing in this special condition limits the rights of the vendor if the purchaser defaults under this contract or repudiates this contract except as provided in special condition 10.5.
- 10.7 This special condition is subject to general condition 11.2.

Special condition 11 – Building report

- 11.1 The purchaser may end this contract within 14 days from the day of sale if the purchaser:
- (a) obtains a written report from a registered building practitioner which discloses a current defect in a structure on the land and designates it as a major building defect;
 - (b) gives the vendor a copy of the report and a written notice ending this contract; and
 - (c) is not then in default.
- 11.2 All money paid must be immediately refunded to the purchaser if the contract ends in accordance with this special condition.
- 11.3 A notice under this special condition may be served on the vendor's legal practitioner, conveyancer or estate agent even if the estate agent's authority has formally expired at the time of service.
- 11.4 The registered building practitioner may inspect the property at any reasonable time for the purpose of preparing the report.

Special condition 12 – Pest report

- 12.1 The purchaser may end this contract within 14 days from the day of sale if the purchaser:
- (a) obtains a written report from a pest control operator licensed under Victorian law which discloses a current pest infestation on the land and designates it as a major infestation;
 - (b) gives the vendor a copy of the report and a written notice ending this contract; and
 - (c) is not then in default.
- 12.2 All money paid must be immediately refunded to the purchaser if the contract ends in accordance with this special condition.
- 12.3 A notice under this special condition may be served on the vendor's legal practitioner, conveyancer or estate agent even if the estate agent's authority has formally expired at the time of service.
- 12.4 The pest control operator may inspect the property at any reasonable time for the purpose of preparing the report.

General Conditions

Part 2 being Form 2 prescribed by the former *Estate Agents (Contracts) Regulations 2008*

Title

1. ENCUMBRANCES

- 1.1 The purchaser buys the property subject to:
 - (a) any encumbrance shown in the section 32 statement other than mortgages or caveats; and
 - (b) any reservations in the crown grant; and
 - (c) any lease referred to in the particulars of sale.
- 1.2 The purchaser indemnifies the vendor against all obligations under any lease that are to be performed by the landlord after settlement.
- 1.3 In this general condition 'section 32 statement' means a statement required to be given by a vendor under section 32 of the *Sale of Land Act 1962* in accordance with Division 2 of Part II of that Act.

2. VENDOR WARRANTIES

- 2.1 The vendor warrants that these general conditions 1 to 28 are identical to the general conditions 1 to 28 in the standard form of contract of sale of real estate prescribed by the former *Estate Agents (Contracts) Regulations 2008* for the purposes of section 53A of the *Estate Agents Act 1980*.
- 2.2 The warranties in general conditions 2.3 and 2.4 replace the purchaser's right to make requisitions and inquiries.
- 2.3 The vendor warrants that the vendor:
 - (a) has, or by the due date for settlement will have, the right to sell the land; and
 - (b) is under no legal disability; and
 - (c) is in possession of the land, either personally or through a tenant; and
 - (d) has not previously sold or granted any option to purchase, agreed to a lease or granted a pre-emptive right which is current over the land and which gives another party rights which have priority over the interest of the purchaser; and
 - (e) will at settlement be the holder of an unencumbered estate in fee simple in the land; and
 - (f) will at settlement be the unencumbered owner of any improvements, fixtures, fittings and goods sold with the land.
- 2.4 The vendor further warrants that the vendor has no knowledge of any of the following:
 - (a) public rights of way over the land;
 - (b) easements over the land;
 - (c) lease or other possessory agreement affecting the land;
 - (d) notice or order affecting the land which will not be dealt with at settlement, other than the usual rate notices and any land tax notices;
 - (e) legal proceedings which would render the sale of the land void or voidable or capable of being set aside.
- 2.5 The warranties in general conditions 2.3 and 2.4 are subject to any contrary provisions in this contract and disclosures in the section 32 statement required to be given by the vendor under section 32 of the *Sale of Land Act 1962* in accordance with Division 2 of Part II of that Act.
- 2.6 If sections 137B and 137C of the *Building Act 1993* apply to this contract, the vendor warrants that:
 - (a) all domestic building work carried out in relation to the construction by or on behalf of the vendor of the home was carried out in a proper and workmanlike manner; and
 - (b) all materials used in that domestic building work were good and suitable for the purpose for which they were used and that, unless otherwise stated in the contract, those materials were new; and
 - (c) domestic building work was carried out in accordance with all laws and legal requirements, including, without limiting the generality of this warranty, the *Building Act 1993* and regulations made under the *Building Act 1993*.
- 2.7 Words and phrases used in general condition 2.6 which are defined in the *Building Act 1993* have the same meaning in general condition 2.6.

3. IDENTITY OF THE LAND

- 3.1 An omission or mistake in the description of the property or any deficiency in the area, description or measurements of the land does not invalidate the sale.
- 3.2 The purchaser may not:
 - (a) make any objection or claim for compensation for any alleged misdescription of the property or any deficiency in its area or measurements; or
 - (b) require the vendor to amend title or pay any cost of amending title.

4. SERVICES

- 4.1 The vendor does not represent that the services are adequate for the purchaser's proposed use of the property and the vendor advises the purchaser to make appropriate inquiries. The condition of the services may change between the day of sale and settlement and the vendor does not promise that the services will be in the same condition at settlement as they were on the day of sale.
- 4.2 The purchaser is responsible for the connection of all services to the property after settlement and the payment of any associated cost.

5. CONSENTS

The vendor must obtain any necessary consent or licence required for the sale. The contract will be at an end and all money paid must be refunded if any necessary consent or licence is not obtained by settlement.

6. TRANSFER

The transfer of land document must be prepared by the purchaser and delivered to the vendor at least 10 days before settlement. The delivery of the transfer of land document is not acceptance of title. The vendor must prepare any document required for assessment of duty on this transaction relating to matters that are or should be within the knowledge of the vendor and, if requested by the purchaser, must provide a copy of that document at least 3 days before settlement.

7. RELEASE OF SECURITY INTEREST

- 7.1 This general condition applies if any part of the property is subject to a security interest to which the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cth) applies.
- 7.2 For the purposes of enabling the purchaser to search the Personal Property Securities Register for any security interests affecting any personal property for which the purchaser may be entitled to a release, statement, approval or correction in accordance with general condition 7.4, the purchaser may request the vendor to provide the vendor's date of birth to the purchaser. The vendor must comply with a request made by the purchaser under this condition if the purchaser makes the request at least 21 days before the due date for settlement.
- 7.3 If the purchaser is given the details of the vendor's date of birth under condition 7.2, the purchaser must
- (a) only use the vendor's date of birth for the purposes specified in condition 7.2; and
 - (b) keep the date of birth of the vendor secure and confidential.
- 7.4 The vendor must ensure that at or before settlement, the purchaser receives—
- (a) a release from the secured party releasing the property from the security interest; or
 - (b) a statement in writing in accordance with section 275(1)(b) of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cth) setting out that the amount or obligation that is secured is nil at settlement; or
 - (c) a written approval or correction in accordance with section 275(1)(c) of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cth) indicating that, on settlement, the personal property included in the contract is not or will not be property in which the security interest is granted.
- 7.5 Subject to general condition 7.6, the vendor is not obliged to ensure that the purchaser receives a release, statement, approval or correction in respect of personal property—
- (a) that—
 - (i) the purchaser intends to use predominantly for personal, domestic or household purposes; and
 - (ii) has a market value of not more than \$5000 or, if a greater amount has been prescribed for the purposes of section 47(1) of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cth), not more than that prescribed amount; or
 - (b) that is sold in the ordinary course of the vendor's business of selling personal property of that kind.
- 7.6 The vendor is obliged to ensure that the purchaser receives a release, statement, approval or correction in respect of personal property described in general condition 7.5 if—
- (a) the personal property is of a kind that may or must be described by serial number in the Personal Property Securities Register; or
 - (b) the purchaser has actual or constructive knowledge that the sale constitutes a breach of the security agreement that provides for the security interest.
- 7.7 A release for the purposes of general condition 7.4(a) must be in writing.
- 7.8 A release for the purposes of general condition 7.4(a) must be effective in releasing the goods from the security interest and be in a form which allows the purchaser to take title to the goods free of that security interest.
- 7.9 If the purchaser receives a release under general condition 7.4(a) the purchaser must provide the vendor with a copy of the release at or as soon as practicable after settlement.
- 7.10 In addition to ensuring that a release is received under general condition 7.4(a), the vendor must ensure that at or before settlement the purchaser receives a written undertaking from a secured party to register a financing change statement to reflect that release if the property being released includes goods of a kind that are described by serial number in the Personal Property Securities Register.

- 7.11 The purchaser must advise the vendor of any security interest that is registered on or before the day of sale on the Personal Property Securities Register, which the purchaser reasonably requires to be released, at least 21 days before the due date for settlement.
- 7.12 The vendor may delay settlement until 21 days after the purchaser advises the vendor of the security interests that the purchaser reasonably requires to be released if the purchaser does not provide an advice under general condition 7.11.
- 7.13 If settlement is delayed under general condition 7.12 the purchaser must pay the vendor—
- (a) interest from the due date for settlement until the date on which settlement occurs or 21 days after the vendor receives the advice, whichever is the earlier; and
 - (b) any reasonable costs incurred by the vendor as a result of the delay—
- as though the purchaser was in default.
- 7.14 The vendor is not required to ensure that the purchaser receives a release in respect of the land. This general condition 7.14 applies despite general condition 7.1.
- 7.15 Words and phrases which are defined in the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cth) have the same meaning in general condition 7 unless the context requires otherwise.

8. BUILDER WARRANTY INSURANCE

The vendor warrants that the vendor will provide at settlement details of any current builder warranty insurance in the vendor's possession relating to the property if requested in writing to do so at least 21 days before settlement.

9. GENERAL LAW LAND

- 9.1 This general condition only applies if any part of the land is not under the operation of the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*.
- 9.2 The vendor is taken to be the holder of an unencumbered estate in fee simple in the land if there is an unbroken chain of title starting at least 30 years before the day of sale proving on the face of the documents the ownership of the entire legal and equitable estate without the aid of other evidence.
- 9.3 The purchaser is entitled to inspect the vendor's chain of title on request at such place in Victoria as the vendor nominates.
- 9.4 The purchaser is taken to have accepted the vendor's title if:
- (a) 21 days have elapsed since the day of sale; and
 - (b) the purchaser has not reasonably objected to the title or reasonably required the vendor to remedy a defect in the title.
- 9.5 The contract will be at an end if:
- (a) the vendor gives the purchaser a notice that the vendor is unable or unwilling to satisfy the purchaser's objection or requirement and that the contract will end if the objection or requirement is not withdrawn within 14 days of the giving of the notice; and
 - (b) the objection or requirement is not withdrawn in that time.
- 9.6 If the contract ends in accordance with general condition 9.5, the deposit must be returned to the purchaser and neither party has a claim against the other in damages.
- 9.7 General condition 10.1 should be read, in respect of that part of the land which is not under the operation of the *Transfer of Land Act 1958*, as if the reference to 'registered proprietor' is a reference to 'owner'.

Money

10. SETTLEMENT

- 10.1 At settlement:
- (a) the purchaser must pay the balance; and
 - (b) the vendor must:
 - (i) do all things necessary to enable the purchaser to become the registered proprietor of the land; and
 - (ii) give either vacant possession or receipt of rents and profits in accordance with the particulars of sale.
- 10.2 The vendor's obligations under this general condition continue after settlement.
- 10.3 Settlement must be conducted between the hours of 10.00a.m. and 4.00p.m. unless the parties agree otherwise.

11. PAYMENT

- 11.1 The purchaser must pay the deposit:
- (a) to the vendor's licensed estate agent; or
 - (b) if there is no estate agent, to the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer; or
 - (c) if the vendor directs, into a special purpose account in an authorised deposit-taking institution in Victoria specified by the vendor in the joint names of the purchaser and the vendor.

- 11.2 If the land sold is a lot on an unregistered plan of subdivision, the deposit:
- (a) must not exceed 10% of the price; and
 - (b) must be paid to the vendor's estate agent, legal practitioner or conveyancer and held by the estate agent, legal practitioner or conveyancer on trust for the purchaser until the registration of the plan of subdivision.
- 11.3 The purchaser must pay all money other than the deposit:
- (a) to the vendor, or the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer; or
 - (b) in accordance with a written direction of the vendor or the vendor's legal practitioner or conveyancer.
- 11.4 At settlement, payments may be made or tendered:
- (a) in cash; or
 - (b) by cheque drawn on an authorised deposit-taking institution; or
 - (c) if the parties agree, by electronically transferring the payment in the form of cleared funds.
- 11.5 For the purpose of this general condition 'authorised deposit-taking institution' means a body corporate in relation to which an authority under section 9(3) of the *Banking Act 1959* (Cth) is in force.
- 11.6 At settlement, the purchaser must pay the fees on up to three cheques drawn on authorised deposit-taking institution. If the vendor requests that any additional cheques be drawn on an authorised deposit-taking institution, the vendor must reimburse the purchaser for the fees incurred.

12. STAKEHOLDING

- 12.1 The deposit must be released to the vendor if:
- (a) the vendor provides particulars, to the satisfaction of the purchaser, that either:
 - (i) there are no debts secured against the property; or
 - (ii) if there are any debts, the total amount of those debts does not exceed 80% of the sale price; and
 - (b) at least 28 days have elapsed since the particulars were given to the purchaser under paragraph (a); and
 - (c) all conditions of section 27 of the *Sale of Land Act 1962* have been satisfied.
- 12.2 The stakeholder must pay the deposit and any interest to the party entitled when the deposit is released, the contract is settled, or the contract is ended.
- 12.3 The stakeholder may pay the deposit and any interest into court if it is reasonable to do so.

13. GST

- 13.1 The purchaser does not have to pay the vendor any GST payable by the vendor in respect of a taxable supply made under this contract in addition to the price unless the particulars of sale specify that the price is 'plus GST'. However the purchaser must pay to the vendor any GST payable by the vendor:
- (a) solely as a result of any action taken or intended to be taken by the purchaser after the day of sale, including a change of use; or
 - (b) if the particulars of sale specify that the supply made under this contract is of land on which a 'farming business' is carried on and the supply (or part of it) does not satisfy the requirements of section 38-480 of the GST Act; or
 - (c) if the particulars of sale specify that the supply made under this contract is of a going concern and the supply (or a part of it) does not satisfy the requirements of section 38-325 of the GST Act.
- 13.2 The purchaser must pay to the vendor any GST payable by the vendor in respect of a taxable supply made under this contract in addition to the price if the particulars of sale specify that the price is 'plus GST'.
- 13.3 If the purchaser is liable to pay GST, the purchaser is not required to make payment until provided with a tax invoice, unless the margin scheme applies.
- 13.4 If the particulars of sale specify that the supply made under this contract is of land on which a 'farming business' is carried on:
- (a) the vendor warrants that the property is land on which a farming business has been carried on for the period of 5 years preceding the date of supply; and
 - (b) the purchaser warrants that the purchaser intends that a farming business will be carried on after settlement on the property.
- 13.5 If the particulars of sale specify that the supply made under this contract is a 'going concern':
- (a) the parties agree that this contract is for the supply of a going concern; and
 - (b) the purchaser warrants that the purchaser is, or prior to settlement will be, registered for GST; and
 - (c) the vendor warrants that the vendor will carry on the going concern until the date of supply.
- 13.6 If the particulars of sale specify that the supply made under this contract is a 'margin scheme' supply, the parties agree that the margin scheme applies to this contract.
- 13.7 This general condition will not merge on either settlement or registration.
- 13.8 In this general condition:
- (a) 'GST Act' means *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth); and
 - (b) 'GST' includes penalties and interest.

14. LOAN

- 14.1 If the particulars of sale specify that this contract is subject to a loan being approved, this contract is subject to the lender approving the loan on the security of the property by the approval date or any later date allowed by the vendor.
- 14.2 The purchaser may end the contract if the loan is not approved by the approval date, but only if the purchaser:
- immediately applied for the loan; and
 - did everything reasonably required to obtain approval of the loan; and
 - serves written notice ending the contract on the vendor within 2 clear business days after the approval date or any later date allowed by the vendor; and
 - is not in default under any other condition of this contract when the notice is given.
- 14.3 All money must be immediately refunded to the purchaser if the contract is ended.

15. ADJUSTMENTS

- 15.1 All periodic outgoings payable by the vendor, and any rent and other income received in respect of the property must be apportioned between the parties on the settlement date and any adjustments paid and received as appropriate.
- 15.2 The periodic outgoings and rent and other income must be apportioned on the following basis:
- the vendor is liable for the periodic outgoings and entitled to the rent and other income up to and including the day of settlement; and
 - the land is treated as the only land of which the vendor is owner (as defined in the *Land Tax Act 2005*); and
 - the vendor is taken to own the land as a resident Australian beneficial owner; and
 - any personal statutory benefit available to each party is disregarded in calculating apportionment.

Transactional

16. TIME

- 16.1 Time is of the essence of this contract.
- 16.2 Time is extended until the next business day if the time for performing any action falls on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday.

17. SERVICE

- 17.1 Any document sent by—
- post is taken to have been served on the next business day after posting, unless proved otherwise;
 - email is taken to have been served at the time of receipt within the meaning of section 13A of the *Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000*.
- 17.2 Any demand, notice, or document required to be served by or on any party may be served by or on the legal practitioner or conveyancer for that party. It is sufficiently served if served on the party or on the legal practitioner or conveyancer:
- personally; or
 - by pre-paid post; or
 - in any manner authorised by law or the Supreme Court for service of documents, including any manner authorised for service on or by a legal practitioner; or
 - by email.
- 17.3 This general condition applies to the service of any demand, notice or document by or on any party, whether the expression 'give' or 'serve' or any other expression is used.

18. NOMINEE

The purchaser may nominate a substitute or additional transferee, but the named purchaser remains personally liable for the due performance of all the purchaser's obligations under this contract.

19. LIABILITY OF SIGNATORY

Any signatory for a proprietary limited company purchaser is personally liable for the due performance of the purchaser's obligations as if the signatory were the purchaser in the case of a default by a proprietary limited company purchaser.

20. GUARANTEE

The vendor may require one or more directors of the purchaser to guarantee the purchaser's performance of this contract if the purchaser is a proprietary limited company.

21. NOTICES

The purchaser is responsible for any notice, order, demand or levy imposing liability on the property that is issued or made on or after the day of sale that does not relate to periodic outgoings. The purchaser may enter the property to comply with that responsibility where action is required before settlement.

22. INSPECTION

The purchaser and/or another person authorised by the purchaser may inspect the property at any reasonable time during the 7 days preceding and including the settlement day.

23. TERMS CONTRACT

23.1 If this is a 'terms contract' as defined in the *Sale of Land Act 1962*:

- (a) any mortgage affecting the land sold must be discharged as to that land before the purchaser becomes entitled to possession or to the receipt of rents and profits unless the vendor satisfies section 29M of the *Sale of Land Act 1962*; and
- (b) the deposit and all other money payable under the contract (other than any money payable in excess of the amount required to so discharge the mortgage) must be paid to a legal practitioner or conveyancer or a licensed estate agent to be applied in or towards discharging the mortgage.

23.2 While any money remains owing each of the following applies:

- (a) the purchaser must maintain full damage and destruction insurance of the property and public risk insurance noting all parties having an insurable interest with an insurer approved in writing by the vendor;
- (b) the purchaser must deliver copies of the signed insurance application forms, the policies and the insurance receipts to the vendor not less than 10 days before taking possession of the property or becoming entitled to receipt of the rents and profits;
- (c) the purchaser must deliver copies of any amendments to the policies and the insurance receipts on each amendment or renewal as evidence of the status of the policies from time to time;
- (d) the vendor may pay any renewal premiums or take out the insurance if the purchaser fails to meet these obligations;
- (e) insurance costs paid by the vendor under paragraph (d) must be refunded by the purchaser on demand without affecting the vendor's other rights under this contract;
- (f) the purchaser must maintain and operate the property in good repair (fair wear and tear excepted) and keep the property safe, lawful, structurally sound, weatherproof and free from contaminations and dangerous substances;
- (g) the property must not be altered in any way without the written consent of the vendor which must not be unreasonably refused or delayed;
- (h) the purchaser must observe all obligations that affect owners or occupiers of land;
- (i) the vendor and/or other person authorised by the vendor may enter the property at any reasonable time to inspect it on giving 7 days written notice, but not more than twice in a year.

24. LOSS OR DAMAGE BEFORE SETTLEMENT

24.1 The vendor carries the risk of loss or damage to the property until settlement.

24.2 The vendor must deliver the property to the purchaser at settlement in the same condition it was in on the day of sale, except for fair wear and tear.

24.3 The purchaser must not delay settlement because one or more of the goods is not in the condition required by general condition 24.2, but may claim compensation from the vendor after settlement.

24.4 The purchaser may nominate an amount not exceeding \$5,000 to be held by a stakeholder to be appointed by the parties if the property is not in the condition required by general condition 24.2 at settlement.

24.5 The nominated amount may be deducted from the amount due to the vendor at settlement and paid to the stakeholder, but only if the purchaser also pays an amount equal to the nominated amount to the stakeholder.

24.6 The stakeholder must pay the amounts referred to in general condition 24.5 in accordance with the determination of the dispute, including any order for payment of the costs of the resolution of the dispute.

25. BREACH

A party who breaches this contract must pay to the other party on demand:

- (a) compensation for any reasonably foreseeable loss to the other party resulting from the breach; and
- (b) any interest due under this contract as a result of the breach.

Default

26. INTEREST

Interest at a rate of 2% per annum plus the rate for the time being fixed by section 2 of the *Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983* is payable on any money owing under the contract during the period of default, without affecting any other rights of the offended party.

27. DEFAULT NOTICE

27.1 A party is not entitled to exercise any rights arising from the other party's default, other than the right to receive interest and the right to sue for money owing, until the other party is given and fails to comply with a written default notice.

27.2 The default notice must:

- (a) specify the particulars of the default; and
- (b) state that it is the offended party's intention to exercise the rights arising from the default unless, within 14 days of the notice being given -
 - (i) the default is remedied; and
 - (ii) the reasonable costs incurred as a result of the default and any interest payable are paid.

28. DEFAULT NOT REMEDIED

28.1 All unpaid money under the contract becomes immediately payable to the vendor if the default has been made by the purchaser and is not remedied and the costs and interest are not paid.

28.2 The contract immediately ends if:

- (a) the default notice also states that unless the default is remedied and the reasonable costs and interest are paid, the contract will be ended in accordance with this general condition; and
- (b) the default is not remedied and the reasonable costs and interest are not paid by the end of the period of the default notice.

28.3 If the contract ends by a default notice given by the purchaser:

- (a) the purchaser must be repaid any money paid under the contract and be paid any interest and reasonable costs payable under the contract; and
- (b) all those amounts are a charge on the land until payment; and
- (c) the purchaser may also recover any loss otherwise recoverable.

28.4 If the contract ends by a default notice given by the vendor:

- (a) the deposit up to 10% of the price is forfeited to the vendor as the vendor's absolute property, whether the deposit has been paid or not; and
- (b) the vendor is entitled to possession of the property; and
- (c) in addition to any other remedy, the vendor may within one year of the contract ending either:
 - (i) retain the property and sue for damages for breach of contract; or
 - (ii) resell the property in any manner and recover any deficiency in the price on the resale and any resulting expenses by way of liquidated damages; and
- (d) the vendor may retain any part of the price paid until the vendor's damages have been determined and may apply that money towards those damages; and
- (e) any determination of the vendor's damages must take into account the amount forfeited to the vendor.

28.5 The ending of the contract does not affect the rights of the offended party as a consequence of the default.

Due diligence checklist

What you need to know before buying a residential property

Before you buy a home, you should be aware of a range of issues that may affect that property and impose restrictions or obligations on you, if you buy it. This checklist aims to help you identify whether any of these issues will affect you. The questions are a starting point only and you may need to seek professional advice to answer some of them. You can find links to organisations and web pages that can help you learn more, by visiting the [Due diligence checklist page on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website](https://consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist) (consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist).

Urban living

Moving to the inner city?

High density areas are attractive for their entertainment and service areas, but these activities create increased traffic as well as noise and odours from businesses and people. Familiarising yourself with the character of the area will give you a balanced understanding of what to expect.

Is the property subject to an owners corporation?

If the property is part of a subdivision with common property such as driveways or grounds, it may be subject to an owners corporation. You may be required to pay fees and follow rules that restrict what you can do on your property, such as a ban on pet ownership.

Growth areas

Are you moving to a growth area?

You should investigate whether you will be required to pay a growth areas infrastructure contribution.

Flood and fire risk

Does this property experience flooding or bushfire?

Properties are sometimes subject to the risk of fire and flooding due to their location. You should properly investigate these risks and consider their implications for land management, buildings and insurance premiums.

Rural properties

Moving to the country?

If you are looking at property in a rural zone, consider:

- Is the surrounding land use compatible with your lifestyle expectations? Farming can create noise or odour that may be at odds with your expectations of a rural lifestyle.
- Are you considering removing native vegetation? There are regulations which affect your ability to remove native vegetation on private property.
- Do you understand your obligations to manage weeds and pest animals?

Can you build new dwellings?

Does the property adjoin crown land, have a water frontage, contain a disused government road, or are there any crown licences associated with the land?

Is there any earth resource activity such as mining in the area?

You may wish to find out more about exploration, mining and quarrying activity on or near the property and consider the issue of petroleum, geothermal and greenhouse gas sequestration permits, leases and licences, extractive industry authorisations and mineral licences.

Soil and groundwater contamination

Has previous land use affected the soil or groundwater?

You should consider whether past activities, including the use of adjacent land, may have caused contamination at the site and whether this may prevent you from doing certain things to or on the land in the future.

Land boundaries

Do you know the exact boundary of the property?

You should compare the measurements shown on the title document with actual fences and buildings on the property, to make sure the boundaries match. If you have concerns about this, you can speak to your lawyer or conveyancer, or commission a site survey to establish property boundaries.

Planning controls

Can you change how the property is used, or the buildings on it?

All land is subject to a planning scheme, run by the local council. How the property is zoned and any overlays that may apply, will determine how the land can be used. This may restrict such things as whether you can build on vacant land or how you can alter or develop the land and its buildings over time.

The local council can give you advice about the planning scheme, as well as details of any other restrictions that may apply, such as design guidelines or bushfire safety design. There may also be restrictions – known as encumbrances – on the property's title, which prevent you from developing the property. You can find out about encumbrances by looking at the section 32 statement.

Are there any proposed or granted planning permits?

The local council can advise you if there are any proposed or issued planning permits for any properties close by. Significant developments in your area may change the local 'character' (predominant style of the area) and may increase noise or traffic near the property.

Safety

Is the building safe to live in?

Building laws are in place to ensure building safety. Professional building inspections can help you assess the property for electrical safety, possible illegal building work, adequate pool or spa fencing and the presence of asbestos, termites, or other potential hazards.

Building permits

Have any buildings or retaining walls on the property been altered, or do you plan to alter them?

There are laws and regulations about how buildings and retaining walls are constructed, which you may wish to investigate to ensure any completed or proposed building work is approved. The local council may be able to give you information about any building permits issued for recent building works done to the property, and what you must do to plan new work. You can also commission a private building surveyor's assessment.

Are any recent building or renovation works covered by insurance?

Ask the vendor if there is any owner-builder insurance or builder's warranty to cover defects in the work done to the property.

Utilities and essential services

Does the property have working connections for water, sewerage, electricity, gas, telephone and internet?

Unconnected services may not be available, or may incur a fee to connect. You may also need to choose from a range of suppliers for these services. This may be particularly important in rural areas where some services are not available.

Buyers' rights

Do you know your rights when buying a property?

The contract of sale and section 32 statement contain important information about the property, so you should request to see these and read them thoroughly. Many people engage a lawyer or conveyancer to help them understand the contracts and ensure the sale goes through correctly. If you intend to hire a professional, you should consider speaking to them before you commit to the sale. There are also important rules about the way private sales and auctions are conducted. These may include a cooling-off period and specific rights associated with 'off the plan' sales. The important thing to remember is that, as the buyer, you have rights.