

## TASMANIAN LEGISLATION DATABASE INTRODUCTORY GUIDE

### Searching the Tasmanian Legislation Database

<http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au>



**tasmanian legislation**  
TASMANIA'S CONSOLIDATED LEGISLATION ONLINE

Government Online

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WELCOME

The Tasmanian Legislation WebSite gives free public access to Tasmanian legislation.

Acts that were in force as at 1 February 1997 are available in consolidated form and Acts passed after 1 February 1997 are available in [sessional](#) and consolidated form. Statutory Rules made after May 1998 are available in [sessional](#) and consolidated form. Point-in-time searching is available on Acts from 1 February 1997 and Statutory Rules from May 1998. The Website features advanced searching and browsing capabilities with all cross-references and amendment history stored as electronic hyperlinks.

We hope all users - legal practitioners, business people, academics, students and indeed anyone with an interest in knowing how the law stands or stood at a particular point-in-time - will find this site an invaluable tool.

**New Features**

The Tasmanian Legislative Drafting and Automatic Consolidation System, EnAct, has recently been redeveloped. Part of the redevelopment includes changes to the Tasmanian Legislation Website. Some of the new features are:

- You can now view and print individual Parts, Divisions, Subdivisions and Schedule Parts.

**Most Frequently Accessed Legislation**

- Traffic (Road Rules) Regulations 1999
- Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995
- Boundary Fences Act 1908
- Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999
- Relationships Act 2003

**New Legislation**

View Acts Commenced in the Last

View Stat Rules Commenced in the Last

**Useful Information**

- Information Guides to Legislation
- What's Not on the EnAct Website
- Council By-Laws
- Bills Currently Before Parliament

The top of the Home Page provides three Search Options: **Advanced**, **Browse A-Z** and **Quick Search**.



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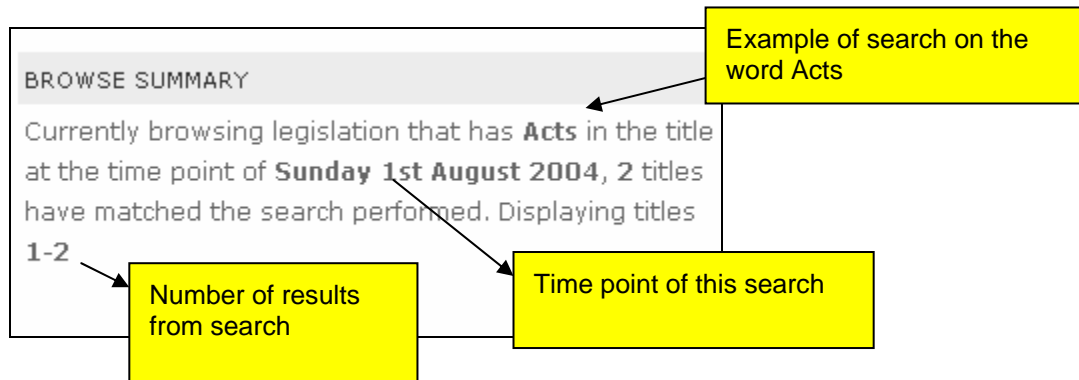
home about links help **advanced search** browse a-z quick search go

This guide will look at the **Browse A-Z** facility, the **Advanced Search** option and also **Viewing and Printing legislation**.

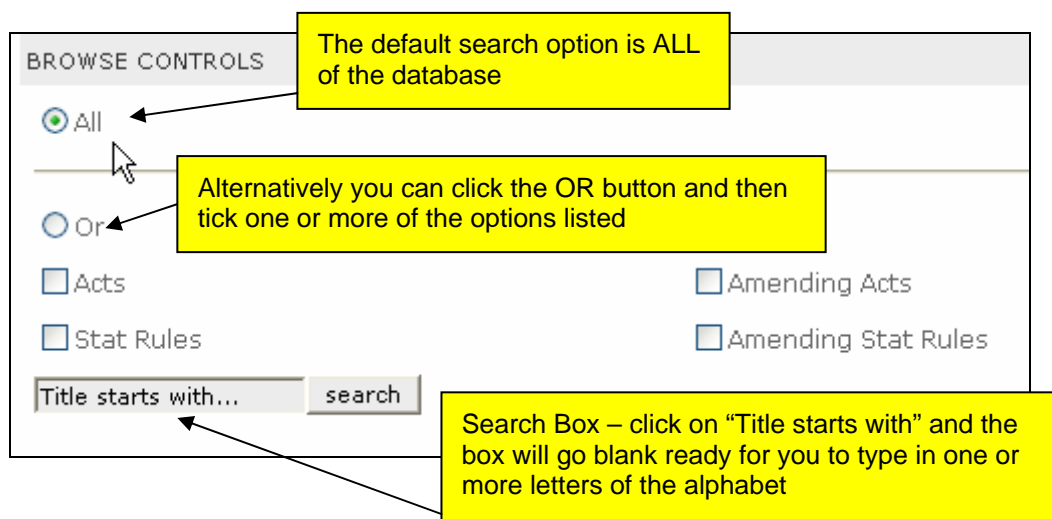
The **Quick Search** option is not recommend, as it tends to produce a great many results. For example typing in the words "Traffic Act" produced over 600 hits.

## A-Z Browse Screen

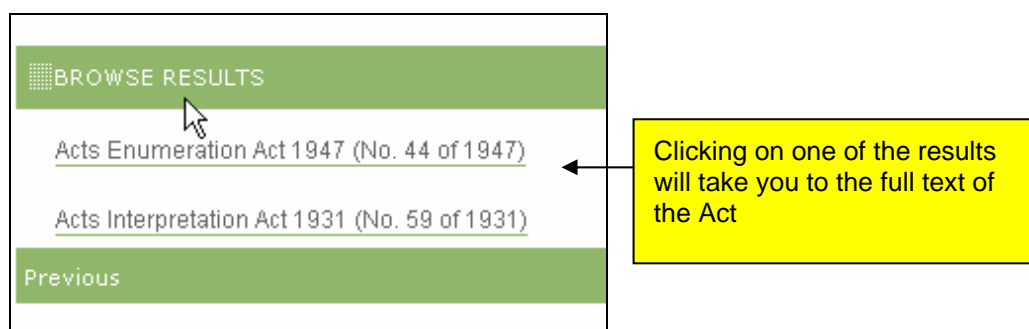
The screen is divided into a number of areas. On the left hand side you will see the Browse Summary that has an example of a search:



On the right hand side of the screen you will see the Browse Controls and the Search Box:



At the bottom of the screen you will see the search results from the sample search on the word "Acts"



## Example of a search for an Act using the Browsing A-Z option

Leave the **ALL button on** and click on the words “**Title starts with**” in the Search Box. The box goes blank. Now type in one letter: **s**

The screenshot shows the 'BROWSE CONTROLS' section of a search interface. At the top, the 'All' radio button is selected, with a yellow callout box pointing to it that says 'I leave the All button on'. Below this, there are four checkboxes: 'Acts', 'Stat Rules', 'Amending Acts', and 'Amending Stat Rules'. The 'Acts' and 'Stat Rules' checkboxes are checked. A search box at the bottom contains the letter 's', with a yellow callout box pointing to it that says 'Type "s" in the search box'. A 'search' button is located to the right of the search box.

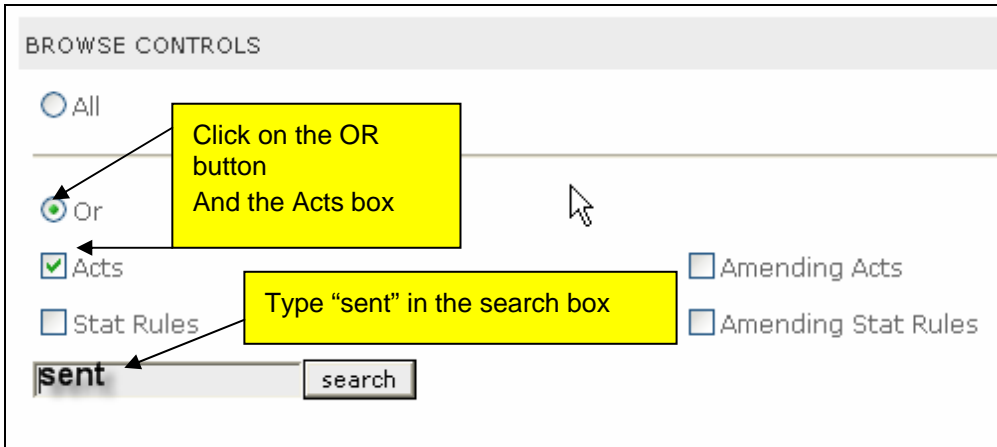
You get 148 results – all Acts and all Statutory Rules beginning with the letter “S”.

Next leave the **ALL button on** and type in the letters “**sent**” and click on Search.

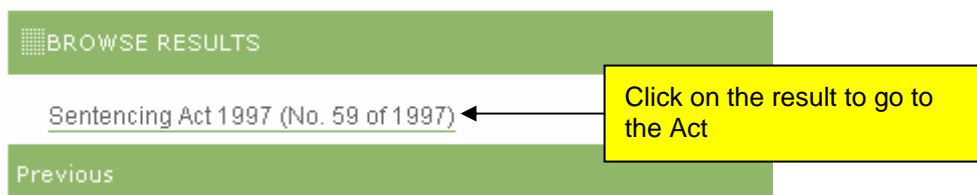
The screenshot shows the 'BROWSE CONTROLS' section of a search interface. At the top, the 'All' radio button is selected, with a yellow callout box pointing to it that says 'I leave the All button on'. Below this, there are four checkboxes: 'Acts', 'Stat Rules', 'Amending Acts', and 'Amending Stat Rules'. The 'Acts' and 'Stat Rules' checkboxes are checked. A search box at the bottom contains the letters 'sent', with a yellow callout box pointing to it that says 'Type "sent" in the search box and click on Search'. A 'search' button is located to the right of the search box.

You get 8 results – all Acts and Statutory Rules beginning with the letters “sent”

Finally Click on the **OR button** and the Acts Box and again type in the letters “**sent**” before clicking on the **Search button**.



You now have two results – the Sentencing Act 1997 and an amendment to the Act in 2002.



Which Method is best?

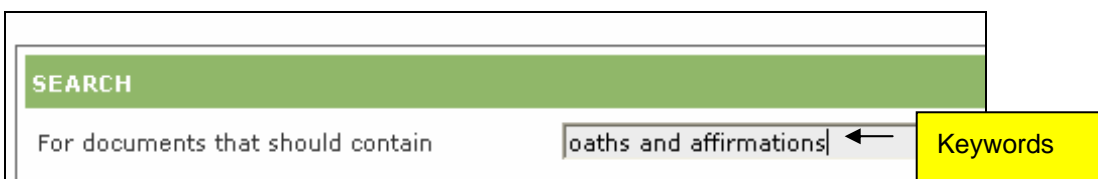
You may be happy to browse through everything beginning with the letter S or you may want to use the Browse Controls to refine your search.

Remember it is an entirely personal choice as to how far you want to refine your search. It's what feels comfortable for you.

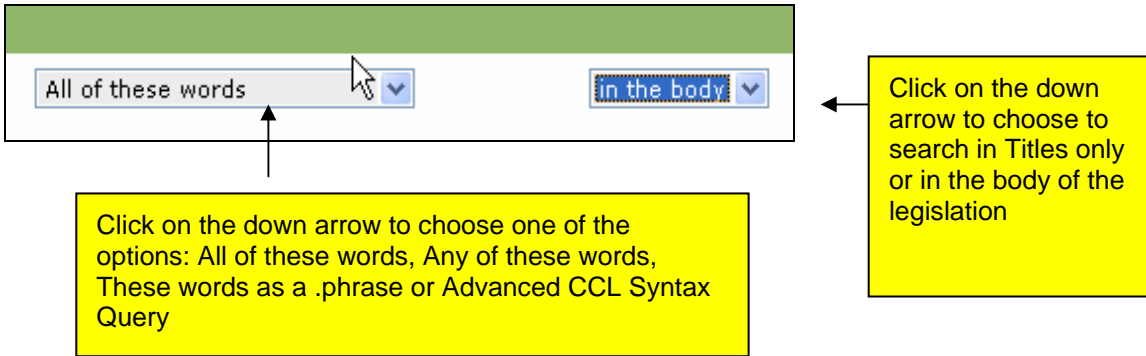
## Advanced Search Option

The Advanced Search offers more options than are available in the A-Z Browse function.

Firstly enter the keyword you want to search on – in this example we are using “oaths and affirmations”



Then choose from the two drop-down menus to the right of the keyword box:



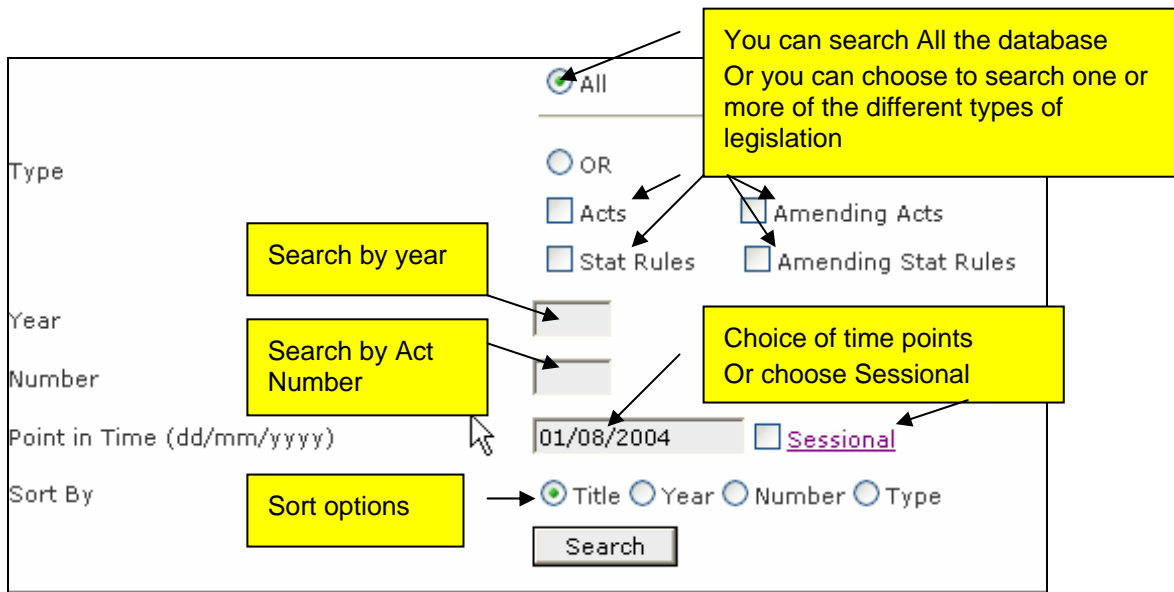
The image shows a search interface with two drop-down menus. The first menu is set to "All of these words" and the second is set to "in the body".

Callout 1: Click on the down arrow to choose one of the options: All of these words, Any of these words, These words as a .phrase or Advanced CCL Syntax Query

Callout 2: Click on the down arrow to choose to search in Titles only or in the body of the legislation

In this example we will choose “All of these words” and “in the body”

The remainder of the Advanced Search Screen allows for more choices: for this exercise we will search **ALL** the database as at the current date, and sort by Title.



The image shows the advanced search options section of the interface.

Callout 1: You can search All the database Or you can choose to search one or more of the different types of legislation

Callout 2: Search by year

Callout 3: Search by Act Number

Callout 4: Choice of time points Or choose Sessional

Callout 5: Sort options

The interface includes radio buttons for "All", "OR", and "Sessional", checkboxes for "Acts", "Stat Rules", "Amending Acts", and "Amending Stat Rules", a date field with "01/08/2004", and radio buttons for "Title", "Year", "Number", and "Type". A "Search" button is at the bottom.

The results of searching for all of the words in the phrase “oaths and affirmations” in the whole database sorted by Title are:

**Search Results**

***Building Act 2000 (No. 100 of 2000)***

225. Oaths and affirmations

***Criminal Code Act 1924 (No. 69 of 1924)***

Appendix D - Oaths and Affirmations

***Evidence Act 2001 (No. 76 of 2001)***

Schedule 1 - Oaths and affirmations

Division 2 - Oaths and affirmations

***Legal Profession Act 1993 (No. 90 of 1993)***

73. Procedure of Tribunal

60. Hearing before Council

***Oaths Act 2001 (No. 77 of 2001)***

Oaths Act 2001

16. Affirmations and oaths


***State Service Act 2000 (No. 85 of 2000)***

19. Powers of Commissioner

***Workers' (Occupational Diseases) Relief Fund Act 1954 (No. 45 of 1954)***

36. Information and evidence

Clicking on any of the links will take you through to where the words “oaths and affirmations” have been found.


If any of the Acts in the Results list have a  on the right hand side of the screen you can click on the image and see a list of subordinate legislation associated with the Act.

## Viewing and Printing Legislation

When you have clicked on a link to a particular piece of legislation the View Screen consists of a menu bar and two text view frames:

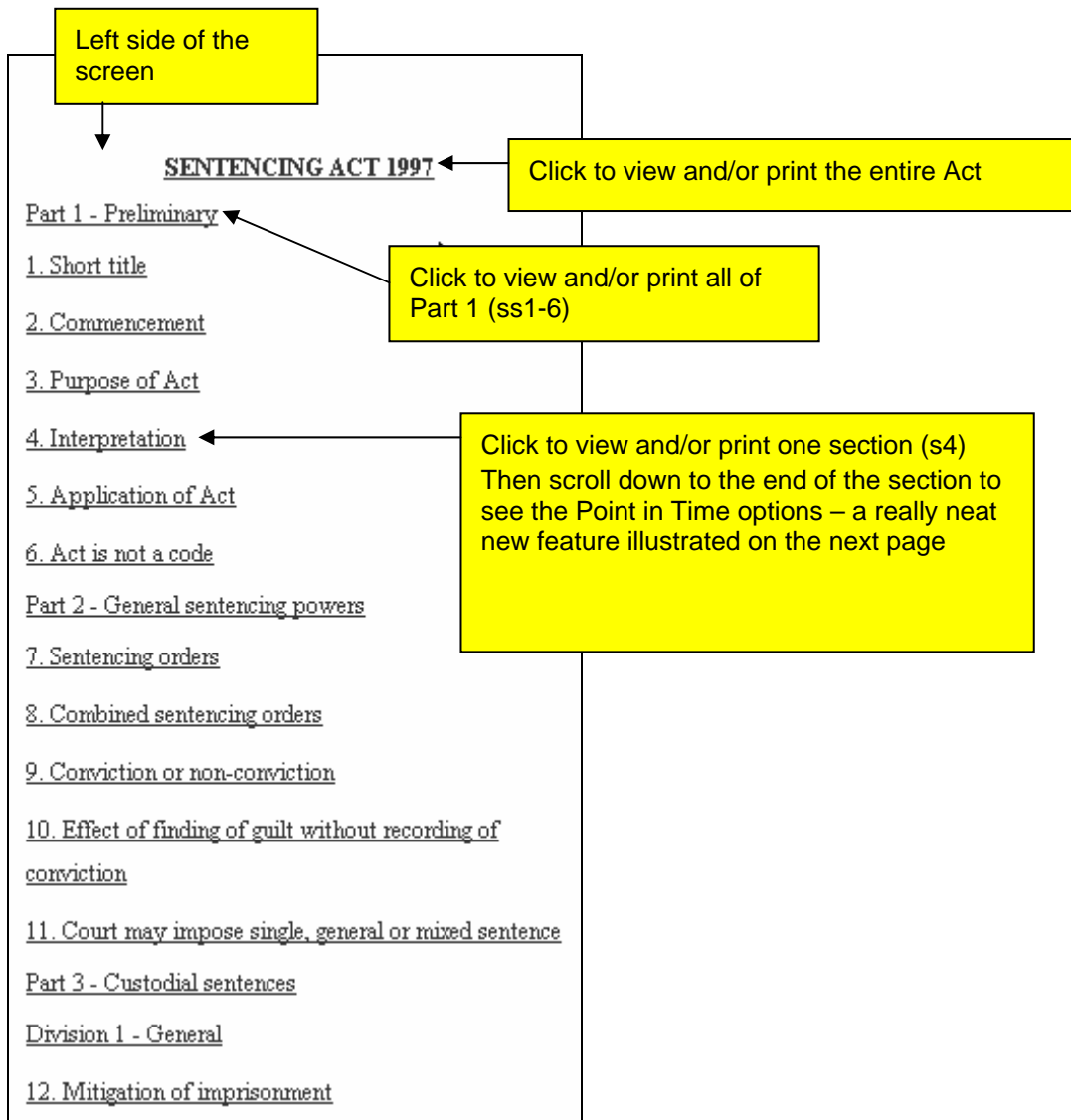
The Menu Bar looks like this:



The Print Page button  will open the page you are viewing on the right hand side of the screen.


Click on the History On button (it will turn Green - ) to see the amendment history of particular sections.

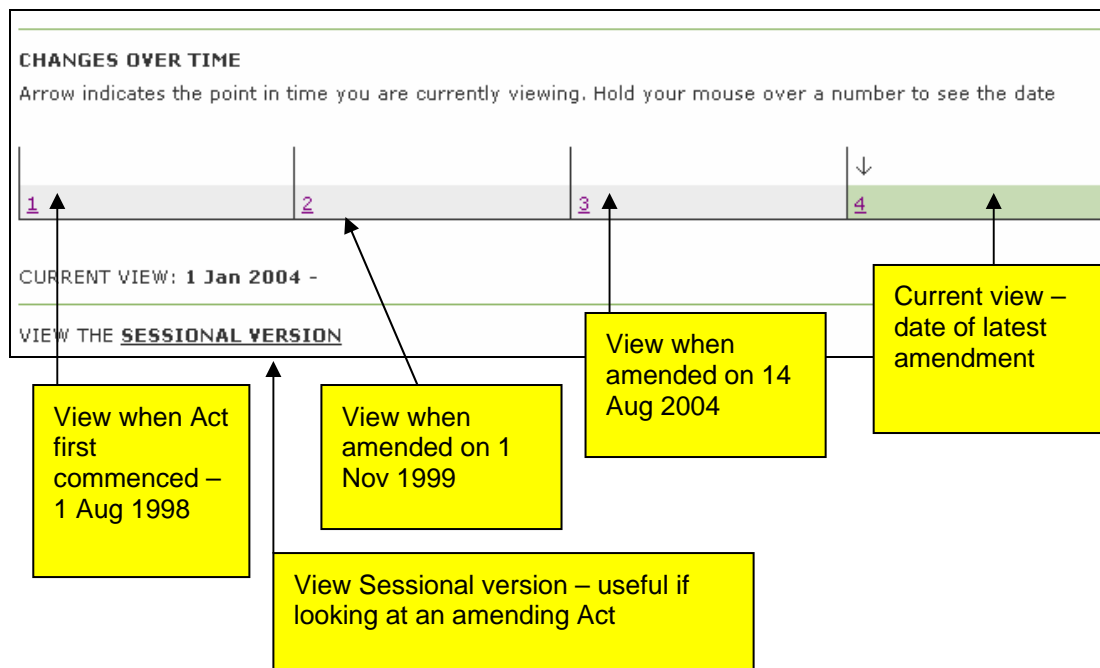
The left hand text frame controls what you see in the right hand text frame. Below is the first part of the Table of Contents for the Sentencing Act (left hand side of the screen) and an explanation of your viewing options for the right hand side of the screen:



## Quickly viewing different Point in Time options

If you want to compare changes over time to a section in a piece of legislation you need to

- have the History button on 
- click on the section
- and then scroll down to the bottom of the right hand screen. If there have been any changes you will see a screen like the following one for section 4 of the Sentencing Act 1997:



The numbers represent the changes made to the Act and are ordered chronologically, as in the example above.

By holding your mouse over a number you will see the date for the commencement of that version. Clicking on a number will take you to the version at that point in time. The green highlighted section is the version you are currently viewing.

**NOTE:** This feature only appears when viewing a section; it does not operate when viewing the whole Act or Parts or Divisions of the Act.