

Occupation Licences



Research Guide to occupation licence records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S Series ID (for series of records)
- A Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

Historical background

Early Queensland legislation about occupation licences includes Part V of the *Crown Lands Act 1884*, Part V of the *Crown Lands Act 1897* and Part III, Division 2 of the *Land Act 1910*.

An occupation licence was a large area of land rented for a maximum of one year from the Crown for pastoral purposes, provided it was not subject to depasturing. Similar to the pastoral lease, the land tenure was short term and generally for a smaller area of land. The licence expired on the thirty-first day of December of the year in which it was granted. It could be renewed indefinitely, on a yearly basis, if the Crown did not require the land for other purposes.

Land under an occupation license is unallocated Crown land which may at any time be declared open for selection, leased, sold or reserved. Details of land open to occupation licences are published in the Government Gazette, however the Minister responsible for Crown Lands may grant an occupation licence to an individual without prior notification in the Gazette.

The main occupation licence records at Queensland State Archives are registers arranged alphabetically by Land Agent District. Within each district, the entries are arranged numerically. Each register is indexed by name of locality or run and name of licensee. Details include the name of licensee, date of application, size and location of land, details of rent paid and forfeiture or re-opening of land. In addition to the registers, there are number of files which cover the period from 1865 to 2013.

Lands Department

Occupation Licence Files

Circa 1/1/1865 - Circa 31/12/2013

[S14005](#)

Files are numerical within each Land Agent District. The file may include the *Government Gazette* notice, application form, description of land, notices of transfer, correspondence with the Lands Department or the Land Agent, notification of intention not to renew licence, action taken to advertise the land, and letters from persons wanting to rent the land.

Rent lists

1/1/1872 – 31/12/1907

[S14036](#)

Reprints of notices from the Queensland Government Gazette concerning rents due on runs and occupation licences. Details given for occupation licences include number, date of application, the name of the licensee, locality, area and rent paid.

Registers for Land Agent Districts

Land Agent, Bowen

Registers of Occupation Licences

1/2/1886 – 30/6/1935

[S13487](#)

Land Agent, Bundaberg

Registers of Occupation Licences

10/9/1888 – 3/7/1957

[S13503](#)

Land Agent, Charters Towers

Register of Applications for Occupation Licences

27/9/1886 – 5/5/1927

[S13512](#)

Land Agent, Cunnamulla

Register of Applications for Occupation Licences

4/10/1902 – 24/7/1944

[S13538](#)

Land Agent, Dalby

Register of Applications for Occupation Licences

1/6/1885 – 31/8/1920

[S13545](#)

Land Agent, Emerald

Register of Applications for Occupation Licenses

27/7/1898 – 13/9/1910

[S9799](#)

Register of Occupational Licenses

10/9/1910 – 5/9/1925

[S9800](#)

Land Agent, Gayndah

Register of Occupation Licences

19/3/1890 – 25/10/1918

[S13555](#)

Land Agent, Georgetown

Register of Applications for Occupation Licences

7/3/1894 - 18/5/1928

[S13584](#)

Land Commissioner, Goondiwindi

Register of Occupation Licenses

31/5/1886 – 1/4/1949

[S10256](#)

Land Agent, Gympie

Register of Applications for Occupational Licences

30/11/1888 - 11/10/1961

[S5930](#)

Card Register of Rent Payments for Occupational Licences

Circa 1/1/1890 - Circa 31/12/1961

[S5939](#)

Land Agent, Herberton

Register of Occupation Licenses

30/01/1888 – 01/07/1965

[S10111](#)

Register of Leases

25/9/1952 - 1/10/1961

[S19096](#)

Land Commissioner, Ingham

Register of Occupation Licences

24/7/1902 – 2/11/1944

[S13614](#)

Registers of Proclamations of Land Open and Withdrawn from Selection

1/7/1885 - 28/2/1898

[S18629](#)

Land Agent, Normanton

Register of Occupation Licences Issued

23/11/1917 – 6/9/1932

[S13642](#)

Land Agent, Port Douglas

Register of Applications for Occupation and Special Licences

1/11/1888 – 31/8/1907

[S13657](#)

Land Agent, Ravenswood

Application Book of Occupation Licences and Pastoral Leases

16/2/1886 – 19/6/1920

[S13664](#)

Land Agent, Roma

Register of Applications for Occupation Licenses

26/5/1885 – 3/9/1919

[S10413](#)

Land Agent, St George

Register of Applications for Occupation Licenses

31/12/1885 – 8/3/1928

[S10412](#)

Land Commissioner, Townsville

Register of Applications for Occupation Licences

1/1/1885 - 31/12/1941

[S18618](#)

Land Agent, Warwick

Register of Runs Offered at Auction and Occupation Licenses

14/3/1883 – 7/1/1907

[S7049](#)

Lands Department registers

Register of Occupation Licence Rents

30/9/1888 - 25/9/1897

[S8537](#)

This register records rent paid by occupational licensees and includes date received, occupation licence number, Land Agent's district, name of licensee, folio, and amount paid.

Register of Applications for Occupation Licences

29/6/1885 - 5/2/1962

[S10375](#)

This register records the number of the licence; date of proclamation; date of opening; name of applicant; locality; date and time of application; signature of applicant; and the decision, accepted, lost at auction, gained at auction, withdrawn. Many of the applications are for land in the Brisbane Land Agent's District.

Lands open to Occupation Licence

8/5/1885 - 5/2/1983

[S14004](#)

When land became available for occupation licence, a notice was printed in the "Government Gazette" giving details, including Land Agent District and any conditions attached to leasing the land. The notices were kept, and most were annotated with the number of the licence and the name of the person acquiring the land.

Register of Occupation Licences

8/5/1885 - Circa 31/12/1980

[S14008](#)

Numerical by occupation license number within each Land Agent District. Details include date of application and notification, application number, area, name of applicant, rent paid and name of run or locality. Each volume is indexed by name of applicant and name of run or locality. A list of these registers is in Appendix XIX, p. 102 of the *Guide to the Records of the Lands Department 1866-1910* available on the Reading Room computers under *Resources by others* tile.

Register of Forfeited Occupation Licences

17/7/1891 – 17/4/1909

[S14013](#)

The register notes the names of licences forfeited. Details include the name of district; number of the licence; name of licence, either the name of the pastoral lease or name of parish; and the date of reopening.

Register of Transfers of Occupation Licences

1/1/1891 – 29/2/1916

[S14014](#)

This register records the transfer of occupation licences including the name of the district; number of occupation licence; names of transferor; transferor; and date of registration of the transfer. The register is not indexed.

Files from Land Agent Districts

Land Agent, Cooktown

Files of Occupation Licences

1/1/1888 – 31/12/1923

[S13528](#)

Land Agent, Georgetown

Occupation Licence Files

1/1/1896 – 31/12/1947

[S13581](#)

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.