



ATHA'S TINY HOUSE UPDATE – JUNE/JULY 2026

Welcome to our Tiny House Update - tiny house news from around Australia

Interest in tiny houses on wheels just keeps on growing – in the media, at all levels of government, in academia and of course in the broader community where more and more people are seeking affordable, sustainable housing solutions.

Here's a sample of what's been happening around Australia in June-July 2026:

- **Green light for tiny house pilot program in Shellharbour, NSW.** On 23 June, Shellharbour City Council, south of Wollongong, [approved its Tiny House Pilot Program](#), which will allow register-able tiny houses on wheels to be used as rental accommodation without development approval, and is now updating its planning rules to allow the pilot to go ahead. We'll keep you updated about when the pilot officially starts.
- **ATHA has expanded its team!** We're very excited to welcome Jules Bray as our new National Advocacy Lead. Jules, who is based near Canberra, has extensive building, planning and advocacy experience relating to tiny house on wheels and will be directing ATHA's advocacy work, in consultation with our committee and our new State Leads, who we'd also like to welcome here: Kim Connolly (Qld), tiny house builders [Jason O'Neill](#) (Vic) and [Michael Duffy](#) (NSW), Sabrina Fraser (Tasmania) and Katie Pritchard (WA) who is in the process of setting up WA's first ever tiny home village.
- We're all volunteers at ATHA so having all these highly qualified people stepping up to move things forward is living proof that the tiny house movement is gaining momentum.
- **Tiny homes discussed in Queensland parliament.** ATHA remains staunchly non-partisan but it was promising to see Queensland Independent MP Sandy Bolton [urging legislative change to allow more housing options such as tiny homes](#) in early June.
- **ATHA has a [new website](#)!** This is where you'll find our official tiny house definition, our mission statement, some Tiny House FAQs, info about who we are and what we're advocating for, a Tiny House Buyers Guide and more! There's also a members portal with resources for ATHA members and a community forum where ATHA members can connect with each other. If you're not an ATHA member yet, please consider joining, for just \$50 a year (individual membership). The more members we have, the stronger our voice in advocating to make tiny living a legitimate, affordable and straightforward option all over Australia.
- **Inspiration from NZ.** Award-winning tiny house designer [Karen Flett](#) did a brilliant presentation in June for her Master of Architecture thesis: *Legalising Tiny Homes on Wheels in Aotearoa New Zealand*. Karen's 30-minute presentation, which you can

watch [here](#), covers many issues relevant to the THOW situation in Australia and includes solutions that could be applied here, too.

- **Tiny house insurance still a confusing issue.** Our Facebook post on 9 June about insuring tiny houses on wheels was one of our most popular ever. One of our ATHA volunteers called seven insurance companies and three brokers and was unable to find insurance for her 7.2m tiny house on wheels -- despite some of our members having THOW insurance with some of these companies. ATHA is currently working on this issue and we hope to have some positive news very soon!
- **Progress in Perth, WA.** Kathryn Payne's application to live in a THOW in the front yard of her father's house in the suburb of Wanneroo was finally approved in June, by the WA Minister for Local Government, Hannah Beazley – after [being initially refused](#) by the City of Wanneroo in October last year. This was an unusual case, but Kathryn is just one of many people living legally in tiny houses on wheels since tiny-positive state-wide legislation came into effect in September 2024. (Also: Esperance, WA, was the first council in Australia to allow permanent living in tiny houses way back in December 2022.)
- **Expo postponed.** [Tiny Homes Expo](#) was forced to reschedule its Sunshine Coast event planned for late June due to problems with the original site, but the rescheduled event on 10-12 July was blessed with three days of perfect weather and an almost-record turnout of more than 7000 people.
- **Bega Valley Shire Council vs Josh Heins update.** ATHA member Josh Heins faced the NSW Land & Environment Court for a two-day hearing in late June about whether he and his partner Manu can keep living in their tiny house after Bega council issued an eviction notice in April last year. We're still waiting to hear the judgement, but if Josh and Manu win, this will set a HUGE precedent for all tiny home owners across NSW. There's a [GoFundMe campaign](#) to help offset Josh and Manu's substantial legal costs.
- **Fred's Tiny Houses is closing its doors.** Fred and Shannon Schultz announced in July that they'll be closing down [Fred's Tiny Houses](#), based in Castlemaine, Victoria, on 31 December 2026. Fred and Shannon pioneered the DIY tiny house movement in 2015 when they started their tiny-house-building workshops, have supplied more than 250 tiny house trailers and have educated thousands of owner-builders through their Tiny House University course, weekend workshops, consultations and Candid Tiny House podcast.
- They've also been tireless advocates for tiny house living and were instrumental in Mount Alexander Shire allowing permanent living in tiny houses on wheels in 2023. We're going to miss Fred and Shannon but wish them well for whatever comes next.
- **Tiny houses in Toowoomba, Qld.** In mid-July, a group of tiny house advocates, including ATHA Vice President Lauren Russell, presented Toowoomba Regional Council deputy mayor Rebecca Vonhoff with a petition with more than 1800 signatures calling for an urgent review of local laws to create legal pathways for people to live in tiny houses. Toowoomba council is due to vote on this issue in August. Stay tuned.

For further updates on these issues and more, visit [ATHA's Facebook page](#).

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