



ATHA'S TINY HOUSE UPDATE – AUGUST 2026

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

The tiny house movement really gained momentum this past month, particularly in Tasmania. And it just keeps 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 August 2026.

- **Tiny houses in the ACT.** ATHA's National Advocacy Lead, Jules Bray, was interviewed by 2XX, Canberra's longest-running community radio station. In her 30-minute interview, Jules talked about tiny house planning laws around Australia and what ATHA is doing to help change them.
- **WA held an Inquiry into Land Rent Schemes** in early August attended by ATHA's WA State Lead Katie Pritchard and ATHA's National Advocacy Lead Jules Bray who advocated for tiny houses to be included in the final decision.
- **Tiny houses appeared on ABC national news.** ATHA's media rep Louise Southerden, who lives in her own tiny house on wheels, was featured in an ABC TV segment on housing alternatives which aired during the national ABC News on Sunday 2 August. There was also a [follow-up story on the ABC website](#) about Australians taking housing into their own hands.
- **Tiny home research in Australia and NZ.** An Auckland University of Technology post-grad student is researching the psychology of tiny home living. ATHA was contacted by Rhoda Scherman, senior lecturer in the Psychology and Neuroscience department, who is supervising the post-grad student and adjusted the survey to include Australian tiny house dwellers. We shared the survey on our socials on 4 August and the survey closed on 21 August. We're looking forward to sharing the results in due course.
- **Tiny houses in Tasmanian Parliament!** Newly elected independent MP Clare Glade-Wright spoke at length about tiny houses on wheels in [her inaugural speech in Tasmanian Parliament](#) on Tuesday 11 August. (Listen from 22:34 mark.)
- **More big changes in Australia's smallest state.** On Monday 10 August, ATHA's Tasmanian State Lead, Sabrina Fraser, did [a great interview on ABC Hobart](#) about tiny houses in her state (listen from the 2hr 15min mark). On 17 August, Sabrina, who lives in a tiny house herself and used to run a tiny house building business with her partner in the Huon Valley, [created a petition](#) – which she spoke about [on ABC Hobart Breakfast](#) on 24 August – asking Tasmanian citizens to show their support for tiny homes, to demonstrate to Tasmania's state government “that there is community demand for tiny homes on wheels to be allowed for those who need them.” [The petition is open to all Tasmanian citizens](#) until 6 November 2026. At the time of writing this, it already has more than 2200 signatures.

- **Tiny homes in Census 2026.** Ahead of Census Night on Tuesday 11 August, ATHA did some research and shared information on our socials for those living in tiny houses on rented land about how to complete their census forms. Unfortunately, “tiny houses on wheels” aren’t formally recognised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and there were no questions on “dwelling type” or the number of dwellings per property. ATHA is advocating for tiny houses to be included in the next census in 2031, to provide desperately needed data on tiny home ownership in Australia.
- **Positive changes in Toowoomba, QLD.** In mid-July, a group of tiny house advocates led by Holly Jean and ATHA vice president Lauren Russell presented Toowoomba Regional Council with a petition signed by more than 1800 people calling for an urgent review of local laws to create legal pathways for people to live in tiny houses on wheels. To highlight the urgency of this demand, on 24 July, **Yahoo News** reported on [a couple facing eviction by Toowoomba council](#) for breaching Toowoomba council’s 60-day tiny home rule. Finally, on Tues 18 August, **Toowoomba Regional Council voted unanimously “to review its local subordinate laws that restrict tiny home living”**. There’s still a long way to go, but this is a real win for Toowoomba’s tiny house community.
- **Sad news from Bega Valley, NSW.** We were hoping to announce in this update that Josh Heins and his partner Manu had won their case in the NSW Land & Environment Court against eviction by Bega Valley Shire Council, which started in April 2025. A two-day hearing was held in mid-June about whether they could keep living in their tiny house and they set up a [GoFundMe campaign](#) to help offset their substantial legal costs. Sadly, that’s not to be. While the Court hasn’t made a decision yet, Josh and Manu were recently given 30 days to relocate their tiny home – by the landowners – and they have finally decided to sell their tiny house. This is a poignant reminder of why we do what we do at ATHA: to allow Australians to live not just legally but in peace in their tiny homes. We’re still hopeful of a positive outcome from the Land & Environment Court that will set a precedent for NSW and beyond. In the meantime, ATHA thanks Josh and Manu for their tireless advocacy and wishes them both well.
- **ATHA President selected for Social Impact Fellowship.** We are thrilled to share that ATHA President, Danielle Lester was selected in late August to participate in a [Social Impact Fellowship](#) run by Social Impact Hub, a not-for-profit social enterprise and BCorp based in Sydney. The 12-week program, which ends in November, consists of masterclasses, workshops and professional development sessions designed for social entrepreneurs and leaders ambitious for impact, and will help ramp up ATHA's work to legitimise tiny houses on wheels and create lasting change in Australia's housing landscape. Danielle was also **interviewed by SBS News** for [this story about tiny houses](#), on 23 August.
- **ATHA at the Expo.** ATHA had a solid presence at the most recent Tiny Homes Expo in Brisbane over the weekend of 28-30 August. As well as our stall, which at one point was staffed by three (!) ATHA presidents, past and present – our volunteers participated in the speaking program and the Q&A panel at the end of each day. The sun shone and there was a great vibe all weekend. Interest in tiny houses as an affordable, sustainable housing option just keeps growing and growing.

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

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