ATHA'S TINY HOUSE UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2026

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

The tiny house movement continued its forward momentum during September, with a lot of visibility in the media, in government conversations, in academia and in the broader community where more and more people are seeking alternative housing solutions.

Here's a sample of what's been happening around Australia in September 2026.

- **ATHA in the media**. ATHA's VP Lauren talked about changes to tiny house regulations in Toowoomba on ABC Southern Qld Breakfast on 1 Sept: https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/southqld-breakfast/breakfast/107093032

- **Tasmania is hosting its first Tiny Homes Expo!** The first Tasmanian expo will happen in Carrick, near Launceston, over the weekend of 26-28 February 2027.In a positive twist, the expo promises to bring government and industry together by being been timed to coincide with a **Parliamentary Tiny House Summit** in the same region led by Clare Glade-Wright, the newly elected Independent MP who spoke about the need for a planning pathway for tiny houses on wheels at her inaugural speech in Tasmanian Parliament last month (listen from the 22:34 mark).

- **Still in Tasmania.**.. A petition created last month by ATHA Tasmania lead, Sabrina Fraser, now has more than 2700 signatures. It is calling on the Tasmanian Government "to develop and implement a clear regulatory pathway for tiny houses on wheels in Tasmania, by progressing appropriate planning, building and plumbing reforms to enable their lawful long-term occupation on suitable land". The petition is open to all Tasmanian citizens and closes on 6 November 2026.

- **Queensland is reviewing its planning policies**. The Queensland Government is currently conducting a survey to refine its Draft State Planning Policy 2026. Tiny Homes Expo provided this helpful guide to completing it to request regulations covering tiny houses on wheels. The survey closes on 26 October. ATHA will be sending an official submission as well.

- **Progress in Toowoomba, Qld**. In August, after a group of tiny house advocates presented Toowoomba Regional Council with a petition calling for legal pathways for long-term living in tiny houses on wheels, the council voted unanimously to "review its local subordinate laws that restrict tiny home living". In late September, ATHA Vice President Lauren Russell met with the council's Local Law 1.3 review team to discuss process and timeline. "The Council representatives seemed to understand the important role that moveable tiny houses could play in assisting with the housing shortage," said Lauren, "and they are looking to understand what others are doing around the country and what they can learn from what is working well." A report outlining next steps will be presented at Council's December Ordinary Meeting and public comment invited, possibly in January 2027. We'll keep you updated and share the link when it's available.

- **Shellharbour City Council's Tiny Homes Pilot Program is go!** After being given the green light in June, this program officially started on Monday 7 September and promises to create a new pathway for eligible tiny houses on wheels to be used as long-term rental accommodation across the shire, just south of Wollongong, NSW. Click here for more info, and here for eligibility criteria (scroll down to Local Approvals – Mobile Tiny Homes Pilot).

- **The Bega verdict.** The fate of Josh and Manu's tiny house on wheels in Bega Valley Shire on the NSW south coast was finally decided on 9 September. After almost three months of deliberation, the NSW Land & Environment Court found that Josh and Manu's home **does not need to be demolished** (as ordered by Bega Valley Shire Council last year) but **they are not permitted to live in it** – because Commissioner Elizabeth Espinosa concluded that although Josh and Manu's tiny home is a caravan, it cannot exist outside regulations relating to its use as a dwelling. This reinforces ATHA's advocacy approach in NSW: to call on the state government to create clear planning pathways that councils can follow to approve long-term occupation in tiny houses. You can read the full NSW Land and Environment Court decision here.

- **Still in Bega...** In the days following the Bega judgement, ATHA's Facebook page lit up with hundreds of comments, opinions and questions as people tried to grasp what it means for the wider tiny house community in NSW. **This ABC News story** from 12 September neatly sums up the verdict and its implications. NSW Housing Minister Rose Jackson was interviewed by 2EC, based in Batemans Bay on the NSW south coast, on 17 September and said she was not happy that the NSW Land and Environment decision didn't resolve the issue or provide clarity for tiny homeowners in NSW, and that Bega Valley Shire Council can do more to make it easier for people to live legally in tiny homes in their area.

- **Good news in East Gippsland, Victoria. East Gippsland Shire Council recently** opened consultation on the review of the East Gippsland General Local Law, due to expire in Dec 2027, which limits occupation of tiny houses on wheels to 28 days a year on private property in this local government area. Council passed a motion last November to look at removing that barrier and is now asking the community what to focus on when it reviews the local law. East Gippsland Affordable Housing Conversation page asked people to recommend tiny houses on wheels be allowed to be lived in long-term without a permit, following the example of Mount Alexander Shire which allowed tiny house living in June 2023 with no adverse impacts. The Local Law Review Survey closes on **Friday 2 October**.

- **ATHA at the Expo**. It was all sunshine and tiny houses on the NSW mid north coast for the inaugural Coffs Harbour Tiny Homes Expo, on the weekend of 18-20 September. While this expo wasn't as big as the Brisbane expo in late August, Tiny Homes Expo organiser Phae Barrett said the crowd was arguably more engaged and it was a big weekend for tiny home sales. Our ATHA volunteers were kept busy answering questions on the ATHA stall, taking to the speakers' tent and even joining a popular Women's DIY panel. These expos attract up to 10,000 attendees, living proof that there's a HUGE demand, need and enthusiasm for long-term living in tiny houses on wheels all over Australia.

- **NSW petition to change secondary dwelling legislation on rural properties**. Jesse Anyan, founder of Kingdomes and Glamporise, has created a petition asking the NSW Parliament "to establish a consistent statewide ordinary planning pathway for one secondary dwelling on eligible rural and large-lot residential land, including R5, RU1, RU2, RU4 and RU6, where a lawful principal dwelling exists or can lawfully

be established." Read more about Jesse's research here and sign the petition here, before it closes on **Thursday 8 October**.

- **Tiny house insurance still a confusing issue.** We have heard some success stories lately from members and are working towards better understanding whether things are changing with some insurers, or if it is mainly in the words used when applying for insurance. We will continue to monitor this situation and share what we find. If you have had success we'd love to hear about it via our Members Portal (if you are a member) or via email if you are not yet a member.

For further updates on these issues and more, visit ATHA's Facebook page.

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