ATHA'S TINY HOUSE UPDATE – OCTOBER 2026

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

The tiny house movement is continuing to gain momentum, 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 this month, October 2026.

ATHA in the media. *The Land* reported on the increasing popularity of tiny houses on regional and rural properties (6th November 2026 (not quite October but it just made the cut before this update was finalised!)

Longtime ATHA member Mel Sparkles, who also runs the Land for Tiny Houses Facebook group, was featured on Living Big in a Tiny House recently; her DIY build on the Sunshine Coast is truly inspirational. You can watch it here.

Tasmania moves forward. Tasmanian Independent MP Clare Glade-Wright is developing a Private Members Bill for Tiny Houses on Wheels, which she is hoping to present to the Tasmanian Parliament early in 2027. Big thanks to ATHA's State Lead for Tasmania, Sabrina Fraser, for working with Clare to make this happen. If this Bill passes, it'll be a real gamechanger for tiny house living in Tasmania.

Tasmania's tiny house petition. If you're a Tasmanian citizen, you can support the new Private Members Bill (above) by signing this petition created by Sabrina Fraser, which now has more than 3,600 signatures! The petition, which **closes on 6 November 2026**, 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 State Library of NSW commissions a tiny house project. Acclaimed photojournalist Paul Blackmore is currently photographing people living in tiny homes across NSW for the State Library of NSW. The final photographs will be exhibited at the State Library, will become part of the library's archive as a historical record and might also be featured in the library's *Open Book*publication. If you'd like to be photographed for this project, contact Paul directly at paul@paulblackmore.com

Progress in Bega Valley Shire on the NSW south coast. After last month's NSW Land & Environment Court ruling that resulted in Josh Heins and Manu Bohn being unable to continue living in their tiny house on rented land, Bega Valley Shire councillors recently voted 9-0 to "prioritise finalising a Local Approvals Policy and LEP amendments to facilitate the use of tiny homes on wheels and caravans" (along the lines of Shellharbour's tiny home pilot scheme, which was cited during the Bega council meeting). Bega Valley's mayor has also reportedly written to NSW Housing Minister Rose Jackson "regarding the urgent need for clarification regarding tiny homes". No timeline has been given for any changes, but we're eagerly awaiting an update.

NEW tiny house event in Byron Bay. A new operator, not connected to Tiny Homes Expo, will be running a new Byron Bay Tiny Home & Sustainable Living Expo, from 22nd to 27th January 2027. We don't know much about this yet, but it looks like a great addition to the tiny house event space and a way to promote affordable, compact, sustainable living. See their website for more info.

Griffith University researching off-grid living. ATHA member and longtime tiny living advocate Heather Shearer is currently helping a research team that's investigating off-grid living – including off-grid tiny house living. If you live off-grid, please consider completing the survey. Research like this helps support tiny house living in Australia. Ignore any references to Queensland; the survey is open to everyone in Australia.

Go Fund Me campaign for Sam Kurikawa. ATHA business member Sam Kurikawa, who runs SheBangs Tool School in Toowoomba, Queensland, received a big surprise this month when her sister Deborah launched a GoFundMe campaign to help women over 55 build their own housing. All funds donated will help Sam build her own tiny house out of recycled materials AND teach women about construction along the way, by covering resources that can't be found second-hand such as a tiny house trailer and steel frame. Go Sam!

ATHA in Bendigo. Our Victoria-based ATHA volunteers were kept busy at the latest Tiny Homes Expo, in Bendigo, on the weekend of 30 October – 1 November. These almost monthly expos are now attracting 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.

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

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