





# Removing a Caveat from a Property's Certificate of Title

A guide to preparing the documents

Last updated June 2020

This step-by-step guide provides general information relating to the **removal of a caveat** from a property's Certificate of Title(title).

If you choose one of the options discussed in this brochure, advice from a qualified professional, such as a solicitor, should be considered. This will help to ensure the method chosen is appropriate to your circumstances.

If you are filling in the forms yourself, we advise you to exercise great care to complete forms correctly, as incorrectly completed forms may not be accepted when being lodged with Landgate.

It is important to read through the whole of this information guide. Being familiar with the information provided in the guide will assist you if you need to contact Landgate's information service to clarify any part of the document completion, or lodging process.

Contact details are listed on the back page of this guide.

#### **Searching for a Certificate of Title**

As caveat details are only recorded on the original title held by Landgate, a title search is highly recommended. A title search provides you with the:

- · caveat reference details;
- · legal land description; and
- title reference volume and folio numbers.

All the above information is required to be inserted into the completed document(s) that will be lodged to remove a caveat.

For a fee, you can conduct an **online title search** using an address and order a copy of the relevant title. Alternatively, you can obtain a printed copy of a title from one of Landgate's offices. Contact details are located at the end of this document.

#### Methods available to remove caveats

There are various methods available to remove a caveat(s) from a title, including by:

- a Withdrawal of Caveat document (Form W1) (for standard caveat(s) Form C1). Note: this method of removing a caveat is subject to Landgate's Verification of Identity (VOI) process
- an Application (21 days' notice) to remove caveat notice (e-Form available from Landgate's <u>Land Titling Forms</u> web page, or paper Form AW, available from a Landgate office) from the registered proprietor(s)-or the judgment creditor named in a property (seizure and sale) order registered in respect of the judgment debtor's saleable interest in such land under section 138 of the *Transfer of Land Act 1893* (TLA)
- a Withdrawal of Caveat (Form W1) document (for caveat(s) lodged to prevent improper dealings -Form C4)
- lapse, under section 138 of the TLA (also known as a 14 days' notice)

- taking or acquisition
- · Order of the Court
- Sale for Rates
- an Application e-Form (or paper Form A5) of the registered proprietor, or any person claiming an interest in the land, under section 141A of the TLA. Note: An application under s.141A of the TLA will not be considered where the same outcome can be achieved by making an application under s.138B of the TLA.
- · sale under a Property Seizure and Sale Order.

The <u>Land Titles Registration policy and procedure guides</u> provide further information relating to all of the above processes. You can access the procedure guides via Landgate's website at <u>landgate.wa.gov.au</u>.

#### Commonly used methods to remove caveats

The three (3) most common methods used to remove a caveat from a property title are by completing either:

- 1. A Withdrawal of Caveat document (Form W1) (for standard caveat(s) Form C1); Completion of this form also requires the natural person(s) signing the form to be identified pursuant to Landgate's Verification of Identity (VOI) requirements.
- 2. An Application (21 days' notice) to remove caveat (e-Form, or paper Form AW) from the registered proprietors or the judgment creditor named in a property (seizure and sale) order registered in respect of the judgment debtor's saleable interest in such land under section 138 of the TLA; or
- 3. A Withdrawal of Caveat document (Form W1) (for caveat(s) lodged to prevent improper dealings Form C4). Completion of this form also requires each of the caveators signing the withdrawal form to attend Landgate's Midland office (All caveators together at the same time) to be identified under the 100-point identification process before signing the withdrawal of caveat form. Completion of this form also requires the natural person(s) signing the form to be identified pursuant to Landgate's Verification of Identity (VOI) requirements.

In all instances, you should consider seeking advice from a legal practitioner experienced in land transactions before lodging any documentation with Landgate to remove a caveat.

#### 1. Withdrawal of Caveat (Form W1) (for standard caveat(s) – Form C1)

A caveat may be withdrawn by completing the Withdrawal of Caveat (Form W1), you can access via Landgate's Land Titling Forms page.

The Withdrawal of Caveat (FormW1) is a suitable method to remove a caveat where the caveator (person(s) or corporation who lodged the caveat) is prepared and available to sign a Withdrawal of Caveat document (see completed example in this brochure). Please note:

- This method of withdrawing a caveat is subject to VOI. This means the natural person/s who are signing the withdrawal of caveat as a caveator must be independently identified before submitting the withdrawal of caveat form to Landgate. Further information on the VOI requirements are provided in the VOI section of this brochure.
- This form must be signed by the caveator(s) named in the caveat.
- Where the caveator(s) are individual persons, the signature of each caveator must be independently witnessed by a person who is not a party named in the document.
- The witness is required to sign under the signature of the caveator they are witnessing and then they must clearly print their full name, address and occupation, directly below their signature.
- If the caveator is a corporation, the withdrawal should be signed in accordance with the execution provided in the Corporations Act 2001.

**Note:** there are registration fees payable when lodging the Withdrawal of Caveat document with Landgate. The current **search and lodgement fees** payable can be accessed via Landgate's website at **landgate.wa.gov.au**.

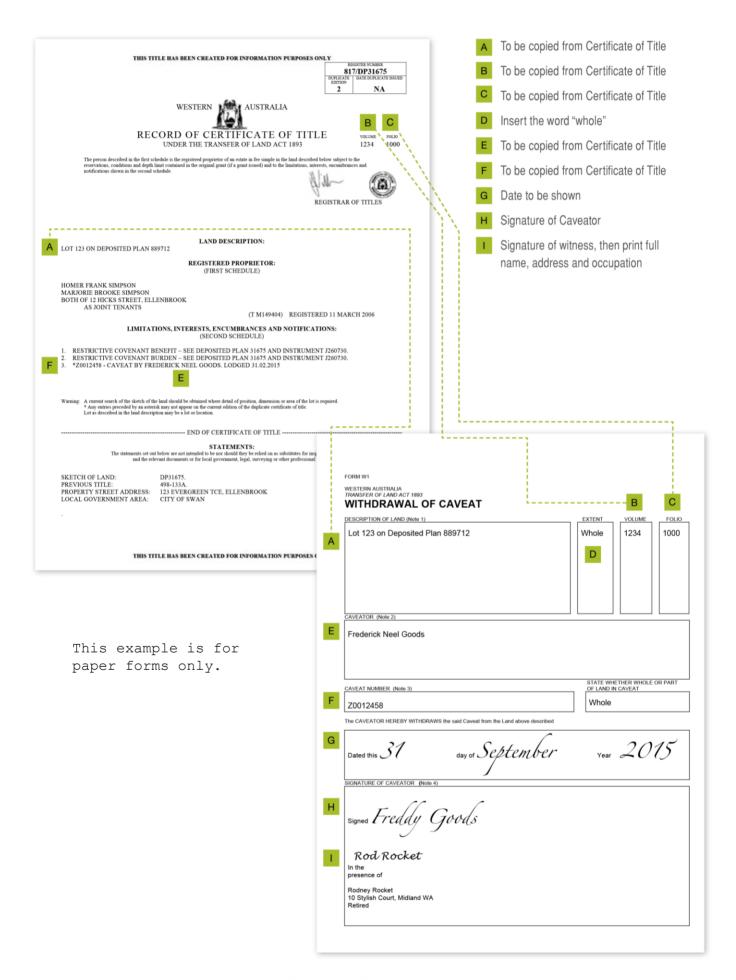
#### **Death of a Caveator**

Where there are two or more caveators, it is the responsibility of the remaining caveator(s) to establish how the interest or claim was held, i.e. jointly or inshares.

Where the interest and claim stated in the caveat was held jointly, the remaining caveator(s) may complete the withdrawal form and provide the appropriate evidence similar to a Survivorship Application (see also <u>Survivorship-Joint Tenants.</u>)

In the event of a Sole Caveator, The Executor(s)/Administrator(s) would need to provide the appropriate evidence similar to a Personal Representative (Transmission) Application (see also **Personal Representative**).

## Example of a completed withdrawal of caveat form where the caveator is an individual person



# Examples of how a corporation should sign a Withdrawal of Caveat document or an Application to remove a caveat

Where a company is signing a document to remove a caveat, the document should be signed in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*. The following examples demonstrate how a corporation would usually sign a withdrawal of caveat document or an application to remove a caveat.

**Note:** Some companies may execute documents in a different manner according to the constitution of that company. If executed in a different manner, evidence will be required to clearly demonstrate the company has executed the document in the correct manner.

Examples of Execution with a Common Seal

Where documents are executed with a Common Seal, the following form of execution is suggested as applicable to most corporations. The persons signing should show the position they hold in the company and print their full name under their signature:

The Common Seal of XYZ Co Ply Ltd was hereunto affixed in the presence of Signature of Director

(Print Full Name)

Director

Signature of Director/Secretary (Print Full Name) Director/Secretary

The following form of execution is applicable to proprietary companies that have only

Common

Seal

Common

Seal

one Director who is also the only Secretary of the company:

The Common Seal of XYZ Co Ply Ltd was hereunto affixed in the presence of Signature

(Print Full Name)

Sole Director and Sole Secretary

Examples of Execution without a Common Seal

Where documents are executed without a Common Seal, the persons signing should show the position they hold in the company and print their name under their signature:

Executed by XYZ Co Ply Ltd ACN .....

Signature of Director

(Print Full

Name) Director

Signature of Director/Secretary

(Print Full Name)

Director/Secretary

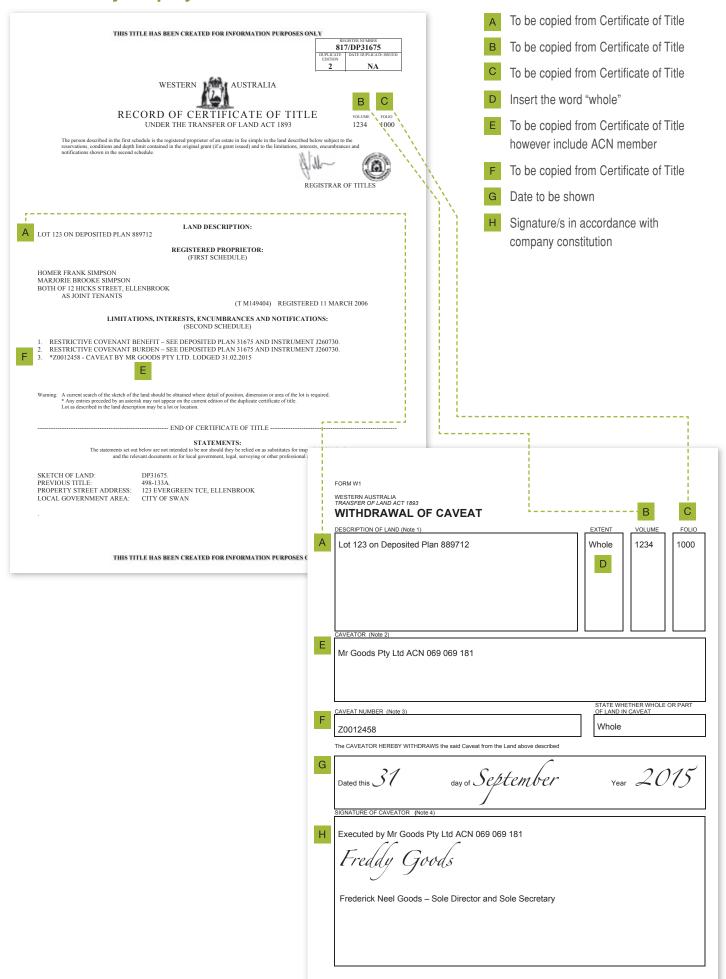
The following form of execution is applicable to proprietary companies that have only one Director who is also the only Secretary of the company:

Executed by XYZ Co Ply Ltd ACN ...... Signature of Director

(Print Full Name)

Sole Director and Sole Secretary

# Example of an application to remove a caveat where the caveator(s) is a sole director and sole secretary company.



#### 2. Application (21 days' notice) to remove a caveat(s) from the registered proprietor(s) of the land

The registered proprietor(s) of the land in respect of which a caveat is lodged, or the judgment creditor named in a property (seizure and sale) order registered in respect of the judgment debtor's saleable interest in such land, may make application for the removal of a caveat under s.138B of the *Transfer of Land Act 1893* (TLA).

This section of the TLA requires the caveator to take legal action and obtain a Supreme Court Order substantiating the estate or interest claimed in the caveat within 21 days of the service of notice.

An application under s.138B of the TLA cannot be lodged on the following types of caveat:

- Caveats lodged under Sections 30, 176 or 223A of the TLA.
- Caveats under any other written law which specifically provides for the lodgement of a caveat.
- Caveats lodged by virtue of a Court Order.
- Caveats protecting beneficiaries under a will or settlement.
- Caveats lodged by or on behalf, or with the consent of the Minister for Lands.
- Caveats lodged under any Commonwealth Act.
- · Caveats lodged by the Registrar of Titles.

The application must be made on a Caveat–21-day notice application (s138B) e-Form (or paper Form AW) describing the land affected, the number of the caveat required to be removed and requesting that 21 days' notice be sent to the caveator under s.138B of the TLA.

All of the registered proprietors affected by the caveat must be shown as applicants in the application and they must all sign the application and have each of their signatures separately witnessed.

If the applicant is a corporation, the application must be formally executed in accordance with the Constitution for that corporation.

No evidence in support of the application is necessary.

Upon lodgement and examination of the application, the caveator is served (at the address shown in the caveat) with a notice requiring that the caveator, within 21 days, obtain from the Supreme Court an order extending the operation of the caveat.

If the caveator fails to obtain a Court Order extending the caveat within the 21 days' notice period, the caveat will lapse and an entry will be made in the Register removing the caveat.

If a withdrawal of caveat is lodged after the 21 days' notice has been sent, but before the lapse date shown in the notice has expired, the notice period is terminated, and the proprietor can deal with the land immediately.

The caveator will not be able to re-lodge a caveat that has been removed under s.138B of the TLA by virtue of:

- the lapsing of the caveat, by either the expiration of the 21 days or as a result of legal action or
- upon the withdrawal of the caveat by the caveator upon receiving the notice from the Registrar; unless the caveator has leave of the Court or the consent of the registered proprietor.

If the caveator obtains from the Supreme Court an order extending the operation of the caveat, a copy of the order must be served on the Registrar of Titles within the 21-day period.

Note: The removal of caveats under this s.138B of the TLA is separate and distinct from the processes under Sections 137, 138 and 141A. Once Landgate has sent the 21-day notice or notices under s.138B of the TLA, it is not possible for the applicant to withdraw the application from registration.

This type of application is limited to only one caveat per application and it must refer to all of the land in the caveat.

#### Application Lodged by Mortgagee

The application must be made in the name of the registered proprietor of the land affected by the caveat, but signed by the mortgagee under its power to dispose of ownership pursuant to s.108 of the TLA. The application is to be accompanied by a statutory declaration stating that:

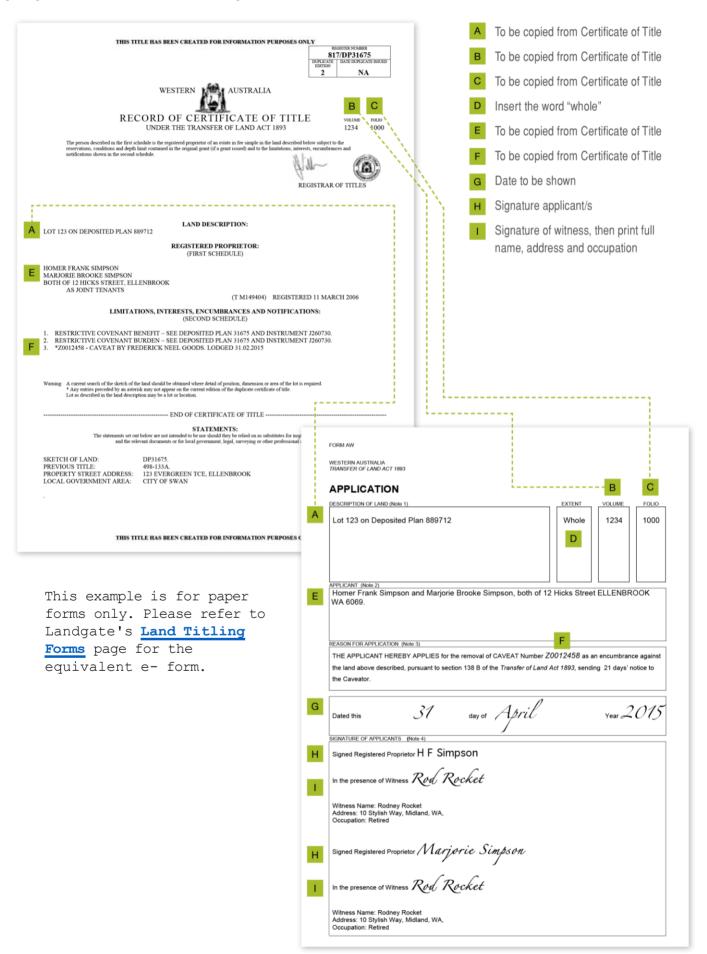
- default under the mortgage has occurred
- default notices have been sent to the mortgagor (indicating when they were sent)
- default period provided in the mortgage has expired

#### and

default still continues at the time of the lodging of the application.

Where such an application is lodged, a copy of the notice sent to the caveator will also be sent to the registered proprietor.

# Example of an Application (Form AW) to remove a caveat where the registered proprietors are individual persons



Example of an Application (Form AW) to remove a caveat where the registered proprietor is a sole director and sole secretary company To be copied from Certificate of Title THIS TITLE HAS BEEN CREATED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY REGISTER NUMBER
817/DP31675
DUPLICATE DATE DUPLICATE EDITION To be copied from Certificate of Title To be copied from Certificate of Title WESTERN AUSTRALIA Insert the word "whole" RECORD OF CERTIFICATE OF TITLE UNDER THE TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1893 Name of register proprietor and ACN number. Note: do not include address M.M To be copied from Certificate of Title REGISTRAR OF TITLES Date to be shown Signature/s in accordance with LAND DESCRIPTION: LOT 123 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 889712 company constitution REGISTERED PROPRIETOR: E MR GOODS PTY LTD OF 12 FITNESS STREET, THORNLEE (T M149404) REGISTERED 11 MARCH 2006 LIMITATIONS, INTERESTS, ENCUMBRANCES AND NOTIFICATIONS: (SECOND SCHEDULE) RESTRICTIVE COVENANT BENEFIT - SEE DEPOSITED PLAN 31675 AND INSTRUMENT J260730.
 RESTRICTIVE COVENANT BURDEN - SEE DEPOSITED PLAN 31675 AND INSTRUMENT J260730.
 \*Z0012458 - CAVEAT BY STEALTH PTY LTD. LODGED 31.02.2015 A current search of the sketch of the land should be obtained where detail of position, dimension or area of the lot is requ. \*Any entries preceded by an asterisk may not appear on the current edition of the duplicate certificate of title. Lot as described in the land description may be a lot of robation. --- END OF CERTIFICATE OF TITLE --STATEMENTS:

The statements set out below are not intended to be nor should they be relied on as substitute and the relevant documents or for local government, legal, surveying or other pro SKETCH OF LAND: DP31675. | PREVIOUS TITLE: 498-133A.
| PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS: 123 EVERGREEN TCE, ELLENBROOK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: CITY OF SWAN WESTERN AUSTRALIA TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1893 С **APPLICATION** DESCRIPTION OF LAND (Note 1) EXTENT VOLUME FOLIO THIS TITLE HAS BEEN CREATED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES C Lot 123 on Deposited Plan 889712 Whole 1000 D This example is for paper APPLICANT (Note 2) Mr Goods Pty Ltd ACN 069 069 181 forms only. Please refer to 12 Fitness Street THORNLEE WA 6969 Landgate's Land Titling Forms page for the equivalent e- form. REASON FOR APPLICATION (Note 3) THE APPLICANT HEREBY APPLIES for the removal of CAVEAT Number 20012458 as an encumbrance against the land above described, pursuant to section 138 B of the Transfer of Land Act 1893, sending 21 days' notice to the Caveator

G SIGNATURE OF APPLICANTS (Note 4) Executed by Mr Goods Pty Ltd ACN 069 069 181 Freddy Goods Frederick Neel Goods - Sole Director and Sole Secretary

#### 3. Withdrawal of Caveat (Form W1) (for caveat(s) lodged to prevent improper dealings – Form C4)

In order to remove a Caveat Improper Dealings (known as a Form C4 caveat), all the registered proprietor(s) must present themselves in person at the same time at Landgate's Midland office and satisfy as a minimum the requirements of a 100-point check using original documents (copies are not allowed). Only the registered proprietor(s) of the property can remove the Caveat in person. A Withdrawal of Caveat (Improper Dealings) can only be lodged at the time of witnessing.

A Power of Attorney cannot be used to withdraw the Caveat.

Due to the operation of law the Caveat (Improper Dealings) will not prevent the following, including but not limited to:

- Mortgagee exercising a power of sale would be able to use s.138B of the *Transfer of Land Act 1893* (TLA) as the application is not being signed by the registered proprietor(s)
- Sale of the property by a Local Government for non-payment of rates
- Sale by the Sheriff under a Property (Seizure and Sale) Order
- In the case of deceased owner(s) Survivorship and Transmission,

and

Sale under the Criminal Confiscation Act 2000.

#### **Important Note:**

- Following the signing of the withdrawal of caveat form, the Withdrawal of Caveat must be lodged immediately at the Landgate Midland office.
- Generally, an attorney cannot sign a Withdrawal of Caveat document on behalf of the registered proprietor where the caveat was lodged as a Form C4 caveat. However, Landgate may consider other signing options, including attorneys, where there may be exceptional circumstances warranting consideration.

If the caveator is not able to attend Landgate's Midland office to sign the Withdrawal of Caveat document due to exceptional circumstances, seek advice in writing with appropriate evidence from Landgate's Customer Service team by:

Tel: +61 (0)8 9273 7373 or

email: dealings@landgate.wa.gov.au

# Original identification documents required to be presented when signing a Withdrawal of Caveat to remove an improper dealings caveat

100 Point Identi	ty Verification Form
Declaration: Please read and sign below I declare the below particulars to be correct and agree	to Landgate retaining copies of all original forms of ID used to verify my identity for audit and compliance purposes.
Name:	
Address:	
Suburb:	Post Code: State:
Date of Birth:	Contact Phone Number/s:
Signature of Applicant:	Date:
. PRIMARY DOCUMENTS	70 POINTS
Birth Certificate or Extract Citizenship Certificate	
International Travel Document:	
a current passport	
- expired passport which has not been cancelled a	
<ul> <li>other document of identity having the same char (e.g. this may include some diplomatic document</li> </ul>	• •
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A licence or permit issued under law of the Commo	
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## Verification of Identity (VOI) – Identifying the caveator(s) (the person signing the withdrawal of caveat form)

Do you have a solicitor or licensed settlement agent preparing documents and acting on your behalf? If you do, you should discuss the verification of identity requirements with your solicitor or licensed settlement agent.

If you do not have a solicitor or licensed settlement agent acting on your behalf, you are referred to as "a self- represented party".

A self-represented party is responsible for ensuring their own identity has been independently verified and complies with Landgate's VOI practice. Self-represented parties can have their identity verified at a participating Australia Post office. Australia Post charges a fee for this service. For further information, please refer

https://auspost.com.au/id-and-document-services/identity-checks-for-property-transfers

All the natural person/s signing the withdrawal of caveat document must be identified, this includes any person/s signing as an attorney or in any other capacity (eg. as a company director) for the caveator's.

#### **Verification of Identity in a Foreign Country**

For further information on the verification of identity procedures in a foreign country for both electronic or paper-based transactions please refer to: VOI-03 Western Australian Registrar and Commissioner of Titles

Joint Practice: Verification of Identity and Authority. Paper Based Transactions—Foreign Countries

Note: A self-represented party cannot have their identity verified overseas.

Further information on the verification of identity process is available on the Landgate website at:

https://www0.landgate.wa.gov.au/for-individuals/property-ownership/fraud-protection/verification-of-identity

### Steps to lodging a Withdrawal of Caveat (Form W1) or Application (Form AW) to remove caveat with Landgate

**Important Note:** 

A Withdrawal of Caveat (Form W1) that is being lodged to remove a caveat preventing improper dealings (lodged on a form C4) cannot be lodged by post.

- 1. Complete the withdrawal of caveat form by using the title search. Type or print legibly in dark ink (preferably black) to complete the panels in the withdrawal of caveat form, using the examples in this guide to assist you.
- 2. Ensure there are originally signed VOI statements provided for each of the person/s signing the withdrawal of caveat document. The VOI statements must be the original Statement Self Represented Party letter issued by Australia Post and/or the original VOI statement provided by a solicitor or settlement agent.
- 3. Lodge the originally signed and completed Withdrawal of Caveat (FormW1) or Application (FormAW) with Landgate:

• In person, at one of Landgate's lodgement offices (locations shown on the last brochure).

**NOTE:** Any person can lodge the withdrawal or application document(s) with Landgate; the lodging party does not need to be one of the persons named in the withdrawal or application document.

• By post (including lodgement fee):

Landgate – Document Lodgement PO Box 2222 MIDLAND WA 6936

**NOTE:** This option is not available when a caveat to prevent improper dealings (C4 caveat) is being withdrawn)

Make sure the lodgement fee payment is enclosed if lodging by post.

NOTE: Fees may be paid by cheque, credit card or by money order (available from post offices).

The current lodgement fees payable can be accessed via Landgate's website at landgate.wa.gov.au.

#### **Contact List**

#### **Landgate Contacts**

Landgate Office Hours 8.30am to 4.30pm (Lodgement Hours 8.30am to 4.30pm

Landgate – Midland Head Office 1 Midland Square MIDLAND WA 6056

TEL +61 (0)8 9273 7373

Email: customerservice@landgate.wa.gov.au

Website: www.landgate.wa.gov.au

Postal Address: PO box 2222, MIDLAND WA

6936

#### **Document Lodgement Sites**

Document lodgement hours strictly 8.30am to 4.30pm

Landgate - Midland Head Office

1 Midland Square MIDLAND WA 6056

**Landgate – Perth Business Office** 

200 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000

**Australia Post Verification of Identity** 

Tel: 1300202287

# Landgate

#### Other Useful Contacts

Department of Finance Revenue WA

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 200 St George Terrace

PERTH WA 6000

Tel: +61 (0)8 9262 1100 Website: www.wa.gov.au

**Department of Planning** 

140 William Street PERTH WA 6000

Tel: +61 (0)8 6551 9000

Website: www.planning.wa.gov.au

**Family Court** 

150 Terrace Road PERTH WA 6000

Tel: +61 (0)8 9224 8222

Website: www.familycourt.wa.gov.au

**Probate Office** 

11th Floor, 28 Barrack Street

PERTH WA 6000

Tel: +61 (0)8 9421 5152

Website: www.supremecourt.wa.gov.au

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

141 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000

Tel: +61 1300 305 021

Tel. +61 1300 303 021

Website: www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au

**State Administrative Tribunal** 

6<sup>th</sup> Floor 565 Hay Street PERTH WA 6000

Tel: +61(0)8 9219 3111

Website: www.sat.justice.wa.gov.au