

**Foreshores Act
(CHAPTER 113)**

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FORESHORES ACT

(CHAPTER 113)

(Original Enactment: Consolidated Ordinance VIII of 1872, Ordinance I of 1901 and Ordinance X of 1912)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act to provide for reclamations and to validate and facilitate leases or grants of foreshores and submerged lands.

[28th November 1921]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Foreshores Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act —

“lands” includes messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments of any tenure;

“port” means any port or place declared to be a port under the Port of Singapore Authority Act [Cap. 236], and includes all such navigable rivers and channels leading thereto as are declared to be part thereof;

“works” means any of the works and things mentioned in section 4.

Restriction on construction of sea and river walls and buildings on banks of any port, river or channel

3.—(1) No person shall erect or build any sea wall or river wall, or construct any revetment along the bank of any port, river or channel, or erect any permanent building or structure within 15 metres of the foreshore or of any such bank, except in accordance with plans and specifications approved by the Director-General of Public Works.

[\[S 17/75\]](#)

(2) The decision of the Director-General of Public Works as to the plans and specifications with a statement of his requirements shall be delivered within one month from the date of the deposit of the plans and specifications, and if no intimation of disapproval is given by the Director-General of Public Works within that time it shall be assumed that the plans and specifications have been approved.

(3) For the purposes of this Act the Director-General of Public Works or any officer

authorised thereto by him in writing may enter upon and inspect any buildings or premises to which the plans and specifications relate.

Penalty

(4) Any person who acts in contravention of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$4,000.

(5) Any building or construction built or erected in contravention of this section may be removed by order of the Minister, and the cost of its removal shall be recoverable as a Government debt from the person building or erecting it.

(6) This section shall not apply to any property held by the Port of Singapore Authority or any other statutory body as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

[28/74]

Authority for Government to construct works and to reclaim foreshore or sea-bed

4.—(1) The Government may —

- (a) construct quays, wharves, jetties or other public works along or out from the foreshore of Singapore or in the sea-bed adjacent thereto;
- (b) dredge the sea-bed; and
- (c) erect buildings upon any areas of land reclaimed from the sea in accordance with subsection (2).

[28/74]

(2) The Government may, subject to the approval of Parliament, reclaim any part of the foreshore or sea-bed of Singapore:

Provided that where the part of foreshore or sea-bed to be reclaimed does not exceed 8 hectares or, if the whole of that part is within port limits, 4 hectares, the approval of Parliament shall not be required and the Minister may authorise such reclamation.

[S17/75]

Declaration regarding reclaimed lands

5.—(1) The President may, by proclamation published in the *Gazette*, declare any lands formed by the reclamation of any part of the foreshore of Singapore, or any areas of land reclaimed from the sea to be State land, and thereupon that land shall immediately vest in the State freed and discharged from all public and private rights which may have existed or been claimed over the foreshore or the sea-bed before the same were so reclaimed.

(2) All land declared to be State land under this section shall be subject to the State Lands Act [Cap. 314].

Except as provided, no action to be brought in respect of any damage

6. Except as provided by this Act, no person shall be entitled to claim, and no action or proceeding shall be brought, against the Government to recover any compensation in respect of any lands or of any interest therein which have been injuriously affected by the execution of the works.

No right to compensation

7.—(1) There shall, subject to subsection (2), be no right to compensation in respect of any lands or of any interest therein which may be injuriously affected whether on account of loss of sea frontage or for any other reason by the execution of the works.

(2) Any person, whose property has been damaged by the execution of the works, may appeal to the Minister, whose decision shall be final.

(3) The Minister may, in his discretion, in the case of an appeal, after inquiry by an officer appointed by him for the purpose —

- (a) authorise the payment of such sum as he may determine; or
- (b) direct the execution by the appropriate authority of such repairs as are necessary in the circumstances.

Validation of former grants

8. Where any lease or grant was, before 25th January 1901, made by the Governor of any land being part of the foreshore or sea-bed within the territorial waters of Singapore, and before that date the land had been reclaimed or wharves, docks, landing stages or other works or buildings had been erected thereon, the lease or grant shall be deemed to be a valid conveyance and to have conveyed the foreshore or sea-bed, thereby expressed to be demised or granted, free and discharged from all public rights which had existed or been claimed over that foreshore or sea-bed before the making of the grant or lease.

Power to let foreshore and sea-bed in future

9.—(1) The President may make such leases of the foreshore and sea-bed in Singapore or in any tidal river or channel therein as are declared by the President not to create a substantial infringement of public rights.

(2) The term for which any such lease is granted shall not exceed 100 years except in special cases.