

NEW SOUTH WALES STAMP DUTY RATES (1865-1885)

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This is the third article in a series looking at stamp duty rates in the Australian colonies. The earlier articles looked at Queensland (*Capital Philately* Volume 7 pg. 51) and Tasmanian stamp duty rates (*Capital Philately* Volume 16 pg. 55). In this article I summarise some of the stamp duty rates of New South Wales as given in the *Statistical Returns of the Colony of New South Wales 1865-85*.

Stamp Duty was introduced in New South Wales in 1865 following the passing of the Stamp Duties Act of 1865 which came into effect on 1 July 1865. The background to the Act and the duty stamps issued by New South Wales are described in the recently published *Priced Catalogue Of New South Wales Revenue And Railway Stamps* by Richard Peck and “Dingle” Smith (Ed. Refer book review). Table 1 is a simplified list of the rates applying during the period 1865-1874. The list is simplified in that often complex definitions, conditions and exemptions apply to the various categories and these are not detailed in the table below. In addition not all Government charges for which revenue stamps could be used are necessarily listed.

Table 1 New South Wales Stamp Duty Rates 1865 to 31 December 1874

SCHEDULE 1	
Agreements of £5 or more	1/-
Bills of exchange	
inland	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn singly or as a set of two (to 1871)	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn as a set of three or more, for each bill of the set (to 1871)	
• up to £50	4d
• up to £100	8d
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	4d
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside colony) – drawn singly (from 1871)	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn as a set of two for each bill of the set (from 1871)	
• up to £50	6d
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	6d
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn as a set of three or more, for each bill of the set (from 1871)	
• up to £50	4d
• up to £100	8d
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	4d
Bill of exchange drawn outside of the Colony for payment on demand	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-

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• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
Bill of Lading for goods to be exported	
• for every such bill	1/-
• for every such receipt or copy	6d
Composition annual to be paid by Banking Companies in lieu of duties on promissory notes issued by them. For every £100 or part thereof of the average annual value of notes in circulation (from 1871)	£2
Conveyance	
• up to £50	5/-
• up to £100	10/-
• for each additional £100 or part thereof	10/-
Deeds or instruments of any kind not otherwise charged (exclusions include apprenticeships, mortgages, custom bonds, liens on crops)	£1
Draft or order for the payment of any sum over 40/- (to 1871)	1d
Draft or order for the payment of any sum (from 1871)	1d
Lease of land or tenement	
• up to £50	2/6
• up to £100	5/-
• for each additional £100 or part thereof	5/-
Lease of land or tenement granted in consideration of a sum of money by way of premium and also of a yearly rent of £20 or more.	
• up to £50	7/6
• up to £100	15/-
• for each additional £100 or part thereof	15/-
Policy of Insurance against risk of loss or damage by fire (until 1871)	
• for every £100 issued for a period over 6 months	1/-
• for every £100 issued for a period under 6 months	6d
Policy of Insurance for a ships, or for goods or freight on board a ship for a period over 3 months (until 1871)	2/6
For all other policies – for every sum of £100 or part thereof (until 1871)	1/-
Policy of Insurance against risk of loss or damage by fire (from 1871)	
• for every £100 issued for a period over 6 months	6d
• for every £100 issued for a period under 6 months	3d
• for renewal of any policy for each £100	3d
Policy of Insurance for a ship, or for goods or freight on board a ship on a voyage for each £100 or part thereof, including renewals (from 1871)	3d
Policy of Insurance for a ship, or for goods or freight on board a ship for any period for each £100 or part thereof, including renewals (from 1871)	6d
For all other policies – for every sum of £100 or part thereof (from 1871)	1/-
Progressive Duty	5/-
Promissory Notes (see Bills of Exchange)	
Promissory Notes payable to the bearer on demand issued by any bank, for every £100 of the average annual circulation (until 1871)	£2
Receipt or discharge for a sum over 40/-	1d
Transfer of run or station (or interest therein) held under a lease from the crown, per £100 or part thereof of assessed value	10/-
Transfer of shares (until 1873)	
• purchase price less than £50	2/6
• purchase price £50 to less than £100	5/-
• each additional £50 or part thereof	2/6
Transfer of shares (from 1873)	
• purchase price less than £10	6d

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• purchase price £10 to less than £20	1/-
• each additional £10 or part thereof	6d
SCHEDULE II	
Probate of a will and letters of administration with a will attached	
• less than £100	£1
• £100-£200	£2
• £200-£300	£3
• £300-£400	£4
• £400-£500	£5
• Over £500	one per cent
Letters of administration without a will attached	
• less than £100	£1 10/-
• £100-£200	£3
• £200-£300	£4 10/-
• £300-£400	£6
• £400-£500	£7 10/-
• Over £500	1½ per cent
SCHEDULE III	
Legacies and successions to Personal Estate under any testamentary disposition or upon Intestacy (until 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£3 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£5 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£6 per £100
• to other people	£10 per £100
• husband or wife	exempt
• Charitable or religious body	exempt
Legacy and Residuary duties (from 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£2 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£3 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£5 per £100
• to other people	£6 per £100
• husband or wife	exempt
• Charitable or religious body	exempt
SCHEDULE IV	
Successions to Real and Personal Estate (until 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£3 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£5 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£6 per £100
• to other people	£10 per £100
• Charitable or religious body	exempt
Successions Duty (from 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£2 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£3 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£5 per £100
• to other people	£6 per £100
• Charitable or religious body	exempt

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No stamp duty was payable in New South Wales from 1875 to 1880. The rates applying on the reintroduction of stamp duty in 1880 are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Rates from 1 July 1880 to 1885

SCHEDULE 1	
Agreement not under seal	1/-
Banknote, for every £100 of average annual circulation	£2
Bills of exchange	
• For every £50 or part thereof	6d
Bill of Lading or copy thereof	6d
Conveyance of property (other than shares)	
• up to £50	5/-
• up to £100	10/-
• for each additional £100	10/-
Conveyance of any other kind	£1
Draft payable on demand	1d
Deed (not otherwise charged)	£1
Lease of land or tenement for rent	
• up to £50	2/6
• for every additional £50 or part thereof	2/6
Lease of land or tenement granted in consideration of money stock or security	
• up to £50	5/-
• up to £100	10/-
• for each additional £100	10/-
Lease of any other kind	£1
Policy of Insurance against risk of loss or damage by fire	
• for every £100 issued for a period over 6 months	6d
• for every £100 issued for a period under 6 months	3d
• for every renewal per £100	3d
Policy of Insurance for any voyage	
• for every £100 or part thereof	3d
For all other policies – for every sum of £100 or part thereof	1/-
Receipt for every payment of £2 or more	2d
Transfer of run or station (or interest therein) held under a lease from the crown, per £100 of assessed value	10/-
Transfer of shares, for every £10 or part thereof	6d
SCHEDULE II	
Probate of a will, for every £100 or part thereof	One percent

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