

Cultivate Cannabis by Enhanced Indoor Means

Large Commercial Quantity

s.23(2)(a) (NSW) Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act

s.23(2)(a) Cultivate or knowingly take part in cultivation of not less than commercial quantity of prohibited plant

Large Commercial Quantity: 200 plants (for plants cultivated by enhanced indoor means)

Maximum Penalty: 20 years – s.33(3)(b) (large commercial quantity)

Standard Non-Parole Period: 10 years (for offences where offender pleaded guilty or was convicted on or after 1.1.2008)

Case (age if known)	Offence	Amount	Plea	Sentence	Appeal	Priors	Facts
Bui [2008] NSWCCA 314	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Sched: Possess 168g cannabis leaf	281 plants	PG (25%)	5y NPP 3y	AD	Neg drive	Growing plants in house – sophisticated set-up Vietnamese
Nguyen (55) [2009] NSWCCA 283	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Sched: 4 offences	202 plants	PG	5y 7m NPP 3y 3m	AD	Nil	SNPP 10 years Hydroponic operation at premises - role was to remain at premises each night, water and fertilise plants, change globes as required - operation already set up when offender joined
Phan [2010] NSWCCA 8	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Sched: electricity offence		PG	5y NPP 3y	AD	Drug offences	SNPP 10 years Sophisticated hydroponic system used to grow \$500,000 worth of cannabis in house – minor involvement as handyman over three days Low intellectual capacity
Tran (31) [2010] NSWCCA 72	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means	210 plants	PG (25%)	7y 6m NPP 5y	AD	Prior for growing cannabis	SNPP 10 years Grew plants at house to make money – worked alone – just below mid-range

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Wong (22) [2010] NSWCCA 160	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means	255 plants	PG (25%)	3y 9m NPP 1y 9m	AD	Nil	SNPP 10 years Grew plants at house instead of having to pay rent – denied knowing plants were cannabis – claimed watering plants for man he rented house from - did not know who plants belonged to – below mid-range Good character – sound work history – supportive family
Pham (55) [2011] NSWCCA 3	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Possess cannabis leaf	305 plants	PG	8y NPP 5y	AD		SNPP 10 years Vietnamese national - Sophisticated hydroponics set-up in house owned by wife
Ta (48) Nguyen (27) [2011] NSWCCA 32	Knowingly take part in cultivation by enhanced indoor means	551 plants	VG	7y NPP 4y	AA 5y NPP 3y	Nil Nil significant	SNPP 10 years Plants being grown in residential house – participants not principals – only seen at house for one hour - below mid-range T – female – sole parent N - male
Stock [2011] NSWCCA 49	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Conceal serious offence	335 plants	PG (25%)	9y NPP 5y	AD		SNPP 10 years Plants grown in shed on property – production set up by offender - paid co-offender money per month to keep lease of property in his name and to maintain property and plants - part of group of offenders - sophisticated enterprise – street value \$1 million – mid-range objective seriousness. Special circumstances - Youth - rehabilitation
Nguyen [2011] NSWCCA 92	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Sched: Possess false driver licence	317 plants	PG (25%)	6y 5m NPP 4y 9m	AD		SNPP 10 years Female - with co-offenders, plants grown at home rented by offender – not principal – no evidence contributed financially to enterprise – no evidence of management or decision making on day to day basis - planned, involved installation of complex irrigation and electrical support mechanisms not by offender - offence "slightly less than mid-range of seriousness but at a level much closer to mid-range than low range" - potential street value \$1.2 million.

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Co (44) [2011] NSWCCA 148	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means	266 plants	PG (25%)	7y 6m NPP 4y	AD	Nil	SNPP 10 years Sophisticated hydroponic system – premises heavily fortified – electricity illegally used – fully involved – lower end of mid-range of seriousness Vietnamese
Crawford (61) [2013] NSWCCA 269	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Supply cannabis	319 plants	PG (25%)	9y NPP 6y 9m FT 3y (concurrent) – not appealed	AA 7y 6m NPP 5y 7m	Cultivate cannabis	SNPP 10 years Police found plants in large shed on a property occupied by offender and wife - highly sophisticated hydroponic system supporting growth of plants in shed as well as underground area accessible via shed - also seized 3.476 kg cannabis leaf. <u>Muldrock</u> appeal.
Clarke [2015] NSWCCA 232 (2015) 254 A Crim R 150	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means	1,997 “plants” in various stages of growth from seedlings to 1m tall 9 plants	PG (25%)	7y NPP 4y	AD	Discharging firearm at dwelling house	SNPP 10 years Leased 100 acre rural property where offender lived in shed – found by police with two others - large, sophisticated hydroponic cannabis cultivation growing in shed area - 1,997 “plants” - underground bunker under hay shed contained 9 further mature plants, transformers and two large generators - not a principal, but significant role in operation as an employee carrying out instructions
Ngo (20-21) [2018] NSWCCA 296	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means s.166 - cultivate Sched: Cultivate comm qty	231 plants 26 plants 453 plants	PG (25%)	3y 9m NPP 2y 3m FT 1y <u>Total:</u> 4y 6m NPP 2y 9m	AD	nil	SNPP 10 years Involved in indoor cultivation of plants in three different locations – not principal – main offence involved sophisticated hydroponic set-up with plants at various stages of growth – below mid-range
Le (27) [2019] NSWCCA 181	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Sched: Electricity offence Supply cannabis	233 plants	PG	4y 1m NPP 2y 4m	AD	Nil	SNPP 10 years Caretaker for plants being grown in suburban house – sophisticated hydroponic system – 370g cannabis in freezer Vietnamese national

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Case (age if known)	Offence	Amount	Plea	Sentence	Appeal	Priors	Facts
Phan (31) [2020] NSWCCA 168	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Cultivate comm qty by enhanced indoor means Sched: s.93Y(1) participate in crim group	288 plants 165 plants	PG (25%)	<u>Indicative:</u> 4y 6m NPP 2y 6m 2y 3m <u>Aggregate:</u> 5y 6m NPP 3y 6m	AD	Nil	SNPP 10 years Involved in indoor plantations in two suburban houses for financial gain – above ‘crop sitter’ and delivery man – important and trusted role over extended period – hired vehicles and transported equipment – performed work at both premises – paid rent and arranged storage facilities – below mid-range Vietnamese – good prospects of rehabilitation – remorse – isolation in custody On appeal: error in taking into account sophistication of cultivation and stolen electricity – no lesser sentence despite error
Pham (31) [2020] NSWCCA 269	Cultivate by enhanced indoor means Direct criminal group, s.93T Sched: Possess drug	2,640 plants	PG (not indicated)	6y m NPP 3y 4m 3y 6m <u>Aggregate:</u> 7y NPP 3y 10m	AD	Nil	SNPP 10 years Arranged leases on the residential properties for cultivation - planned activity given size of cultivation. Good rehabilitation prospects - risk of reoffending low.

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