

Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025

Explanatory notes for SL 2025 No. 40

made under the

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995

General Outline

Short title

Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025

Authorising law

Section 171 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The policy objective of the Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025 (the Amendment Regulation) is to remove the requirement for an application fee for disability parking permits and update the heavy vehicle registration and number plate fees.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) administers the Australian Disability Parking Scheme (the Scheme) in Queensland. The Scheme provides disability parking permits to eligible individuals and organisations, allowing permit holders to use disability parking bays to support their access to community facilities and services.

Currently, applicants for a disability parking permit are charged a one-off non-refundable application fee, prescribed under the *Traffic Regulation 1962* (the Traffic Regulation).

In 2024, the Crisafulli Government made an election commitment that disability parking permits would be free, allowing families to apply for permits for multiple vehicles within the one family at no cost.

To implement the election commitment, the Amendment Regulation amends the Traffic Regulation to remove the disability parking permit application fee from 1 July 2025. Part 12A of the Traffic Regulation, specifically section 61(1)(c), requires an application for a disability parking permit to be accompanied by the appropriate fee. The current fee is 18.65 fee units, as outlined in Schedule 4, section 2 of the Traffic Regulation.

The *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021* (the Vehicle Registration Regulation) contains Category 2 vehicle registration fees and the national heavy vehicle number plate fees, both of which are determined by a nationally agreed process and are exempt from the Queensland Treasury Fee Unit Model. A Category 2 vehicle is defined as a vehicle with a GVM (gross vehicle mass), GCM (gross combination mass) or ATM (aggregate trailer mass) of more than 4.5t (commonly known as a heavy vehicle).

Heavy vehicle registration fees (which consist of a road use and regulatory components) are adjusted annually in accordance with updated schedules in the Heavy Vehicle Charges Model Law as agreed by the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM). ITMM has agreed to an increase of 6 per cent to the road use component of registration fees for each of the financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The regulatory component of heavy vehicle charges, administered through states and territory registration fees, is adjusted annually to recover the operating cost of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) which is primarily industry funded. The regulatory component of registration charges needs to increase by 1.5 per cent to recover the NHVR budget for 2025-26 in accordance with updated schedules in the Heavy Vehicle Charges Model Law as approved by ITMM.

The heavy vehicle number plate fee is adjusted by a nationally agreed indexation method. This year that adjustment is based on a 2.4 per cent increase in the year to the December 2024 quarter for the National All Groups Consumer Price Index published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Amendment Regulation meets the policy objective by amending:

- the Traffic Regulation to remove the disability parking application fee; and
- the Vehicle Registration Regulation to update the heavy vehicle registration and heavy vehicle number plate fees.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The amendments are consistent with the policy objectives of the authorising law.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Amendment Regulation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Currently, applicants for a disability parking permit are charged a one-off non-refundable application fee of 18.65 fee units (currently \$19.75), prescribed under the Traffic Regulation. The removal of the disability parking permit application fee will ensure people with eligible disabilities can obtain a permit free of charge, supporting their access to community facilities and services.

The savings for individuals applying for a disability parking permit will result in foregone revenue of approximately \$2.2 million over the forward estimates (to 2027-2028). This lost revenue will be absorbed within existing budget allocations.

The regulatory component of heavy vehicle charges is adjusted annually to recover the operating cost of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) which is primarily industry funded.

Revenue from vehicle registration is applied to the maintenance, preservation and operation of the State-controlled road network.

The costs associated with implementation of fees and charges are minor administrative costs. These are not considered to be significant and will be met from existing resources.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendments are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

In accordance with *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*, a summary Impact Analysis Statement (IAS) has been prepared and approved by the Director-General of TMR and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The IAS found, in summary, that the amendments to the Traffic Regulation reduced regulatory impacts for the community.

The updates to the heavy vehicle registration and number plate fees charges propose only standard fee variations, in line with or below, a government endorsed indexation factor. TMR considered no further regulatory impact assessment is required.

No public consultation was undertaken in relation to the Traffic Regulation amendments as they are beneficial to the community.

The National Transport Commission undertook national consultation about the increases to heavy vehicle registration fees. Following consideration of submissions, the national fee increases were approved by ITMM.