

Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020

Explanatory notes for SL 2020 No. 168

made under the

Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020

General Outline

Short title

Proclamation made under the *Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020*

Authorising law

Section 2 of the *Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020*

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The *Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2020* (the Act) received assent on 21 July 2020.

The Act provides that the provisions about the disability parking scheme commence by proclamation (parts 3 and 4 and sections 15(1), 16 and 17 of the Act). These provisions:

- expand the eligibility criteria for the grant of a disability parking permit to include vision impaired persons who are temporarily or permanently blind; and
- increase the police-issued fine to \$533 (4 penalty units) for stopping in a disability parking area without a permit.

The objective of the Proclamation is to commence these provisions.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Proclamation fixes 31 August 2020 for the commencement of provisions relating to the disability parking scheme.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Proclamation is consistent with the policy objectives of the Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

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

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There is no alternative way to achieve the policy objectives.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The commencement of the amendments will mean permanently and temporarily blind Queenslanders are eligible for a disability parking permit, which provides access to convenient parking spaces that are provided at a range of facilities such as shopping centres, hospitals and venues. The increased penalty will encourage other members of the public to leave disability parking areas vacant for those who hold a permit.

The cost of commencing the amendments relates to the administrative cost of processing additional applications for a disability parking permit. These costs are minimal and will not have a significant impact on the state government or other stakeholders. Any cost will be met from within existing resources.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Proclamation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

No stakeholders were consulted about the Proclamation because the commencement of the provisions is machinery in nature.

Stakeholders consulted on the amendments to the Act supported the amendments commencing as soon as practicable. These stakeholders included organisations representing vision impaired persons such as The Queensland Blind Association, Vision Australia and Guide Dogs Queensland. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will undertake communications targeting those affected by the changes, including people diagnosed as legally blind, medical and allied health practitioners, local governments and road users.

In accordance with *The Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation*, the Department of Transport and Main Roads applied a self-assessable exclusion from undertaking further regulatory impact analysis (Category G—Regulatory proposals that are of a machinery nature).