

Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022

Human Rights Certificate

Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 41 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, Mark Furner MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, provide this human rights certificate with respect to the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022* made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022*, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly, is compatible with the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the Subordinate Legislation

The *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022* (Amendment Regulation) is made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act).

The authorising law for the regulation is section 44 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

The Amendment Regulation amends the *Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme* (the Scheme) which is prescribed in schedule 15 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011* to provide more opportunities for WAT operators who are recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 to apply for financial assistance by extending the closure date, the eligibility for, and the conditions of assistance of the Scheme.

The Scheme was created in 2019 to support the taxi industry to expand the wheelchair accessible taxi (WATs) fleet by providing financial assistance to eligible applicants for the replacement of existing taxis with new WATs. The main objective of the Amendment Regulation is to encourage greater participation and access to the Scheme to ensure there is continuity of accessible taxi service to those with reduced mobility throughout Queensland after the impacts by the COVID-19 pandemic

The Amendment Regulation will benefit WAT operators who have experienced economic difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing eligible applicants to transfer a funded vehicle between licences that they hold or lease. The Amendment Regulation will create temporary eligibility for taxi service operators seeking to add a new WAT to their taxi service licence (TSL) to return the licence to operation. The Amendment Regulation extends the

Scheme for an additional year and provides greater flexibility for the ongoing operation of the Scheme. The Amendment Regulation creates clarity for applicants and administrators of the Scheme by updating vehicle eligibility criteria to exclude previously replaced vehicles unless they have been written off.

Human Rights Issues

Human rights relevant to the subordinate legislation (Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*)

The Amendment Regulation has been considered with regards to the *Human Rights Act 2019* and it has been determined that no human rights are engaged by the Amendment Regulation.

Conclusion

I consider that the *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2022* is compatible with the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it does not limit human rights.

Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural
Communities

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