

# Rural and Regional Adjustment (Variation of Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2024

## 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, 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 2024* (the Amendment Regulation) made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

In my opinion, the Amendment Regulation, 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 Amendment Regulation is made under the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994* (the Act).

The authorising law for the Amendment Regulation is sections 3, 10, 11 and 44 of the Act.

The *Rural and Regional Adjustment (Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2019* established the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme (the Scheme) as an approved assistance scheme under the Act.

The objectives of the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grants Scheme (the Scheme) are to modernize and reduce the average age of wheelchair accessible taxis being used to provide taxi services in Queensland and to provide the opportunity to replace taxis that are not wheelchair accessible vehicles with new wheelchair accessible taxis.

These objectives are achieved by assisting the holders and lessees of particular taxi service licences to meet the cost of replacing ageing wheelchair accessible taxis.

The Scheme provides a 50 per cent co-contribution grant with matched funding of up to \$45 000 to assist taxi licence holders offset the cost of purchasing and modifying new Wheelchair Accessible Taxi vehicles to replace an existing vehicle or to transition from offering a conventional taxi service to a wheelchair accessible taxi service.

The Scheme has significant funding remaining and additional time to access grants would be beneficial in providing applicants and potential applicants a greater chance to access the assistance.

Feedback from stakeholders including applicants has identified there is a supply issue with vehicles that can be converted to a wheelchair accessible taxi, with wait time anywhere from six months to two years, which delays the ability to apply for assistance. The increasing cost of vehicles and cost of living pressures necessitate an increase in grant assistance under the Scheme.

## **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 23 human rights of the *Human Rights Act 2019* and is not considered to engage any human rights.

## **Conclusion**

I consider that the Amendment Regulation 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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