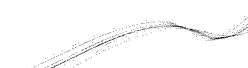


Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Name of the proposal	Removal of disability parking permit application fees
Submission type (<i>Summary IAS / Consultation IAS / Decision IAS</i>)	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>Traffic Regulation 1962</i>
Date of issue	May 2025



What is the nature, size and scope of the problem? What are the objectives of government action?

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.

There are approximately 245,000 active disability parking permits in Queensland, held by approximately 225,000 individuals and 1,500 organisations. The number of permit holders is growing steadily, with 39,000 new permits issued in the 2023-2024 financial year, and a 25 per cent increase in the number of applications (new and renewals) since 2023.

Queenslanders looking to apply for a new disability parking permit are charged a \$19.75 fee on application, set under Part 12A of the *Traffic Regulation 1962*. Permit holders looking to renew a temporary (up to 1 year) permit are also charged the application fee, however the fee is waived for renewal of a 5-year Australian disability parking permit. Permit holders are not charged when replacing missing permits.

TMR's *Strategic Plan 2023-2027* identifies a vision of connected communities in a sustainable, thriving and inclusive Queensland. The Scheme is part of TMR's commitment to an inclusive transport network, as it assists Queenslanders with an eligible disability to access community facilities and services.

The Queensland Treasury Principles for Fees and Charges allows for subsidies and concessions for social welfare, equity, environmental or economic objectives.

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. Removing the application fee for a disability parking permit will enable all Queenslanders with an eligible disability to access a disability parking permit.

What options were considered?

The following options have been considered:

Option 1: Remove the application fee for a disability parking permit

Option 1 is to remove the application fee for a disability parking permit through an amendment to the *Traffic Regulation 1962*. Removing the fee will provide cost of living relief and remove the financial barrier to applying for a disability parking permit.

Option 2: Retain the application fee for a disability parking permit (status quo)

Option 2 is to continue the status quo by retaining the application fee for a disability parking permit.

What are the impacts?

Option 1: Remove the application fee for a disability parking permit

Approximately 39,000 new permits were issued in the 2023-2024 financial year. With the Scheme growing, it can be expected that each year 39,000 Queenslanders would benefit from the removal of the application fee.

The removal of the application fee will also encourage more Queenslanders with an eligible disability to apply for a disability parking permit. To be eligible for a permit, individuals must have a valid mobility or vision impairment. The removal of the application fee will remove the financial cost of applying for a permit, taking the risk away for individuals who are unsure of whether their disability qualifies as an 'eligible' disability. This will mean more Queenslanders can receive better access to community facilities and services.

Removing the application fee for a disability parking permit will result in lost revenue for the Queensland Government. It is forecast that removing the application fee will result in lost revenue of \$690,000 in 2025-2026, and a total of \$2.2 million in lost revenue over the forward estimates (to 2027-2028). This lost revenue has been considered by the Queensland Government as part of the 2024-2025 Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review.

Option 2: Retain the application fee for a disability parking permit (status quo)

Applicants for a disability parking permit will continue to be charged an application fee for a disability parking permit. This will not provide cost of living relief for Queenslanders and will continue to discourage some Queenslanders from applying for a permit.

The objective of the Queensland Government action is to improve the inclusiveness of Queensland's transport network, helping more Queenslanders to access community facilities and services. Retaining the application fee does not provide these benefits for Queenslanders.

Who was consulted?

No consultation was undertaken in relation to the amendments as they are considered a benefit.

What is the recommended option and why?

Option 1, Removing the application fee for a disability parking permit is the recommended option and will be implemented on 1 July 2025. This option most effectively works towards an inclusive and accessible transport network and implements the government's election commitment that disability parking permits will be free, including permits for multiple vehicles within the one family.

The preferred option reduces regulatory impacts for the community by decreasing costs for Queenslanders applying for a disability parking permit. It will provide cost of living relief to Queenslanders with an eligible disability, increase the accessibility to disability parking permits, and community facilities and services.

Impact assessment

All proposals – complete

	First full year	First 3 years**
Direct costs – <i>Compliance costs*</i>	0	0
Direct costs – <i>Government costs</i>	\$690,000	\$2,200,000

Signed



Sally Stannard
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Date: 22/5/2025



Brent Mickelberg MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Date: 23/5/2025