



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

20 January 2020

Ms Deborah Jeffrey  
Transport and Public Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
tpwc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Jeffrey

Thank you for the opportunity for Brisbane City Council (Council) to provide a submission on the Queensland Government's *Transport Legislation (Disability Parking and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019*.

Council supports the legislative amendments to provide eligibility for the disability parking permits scheme to people with vision impairments. This will help improve access and inclusion for people with permanent or temporary vision impairments by providing opportunities to park in convenient locations. Council notes the Queensland Government's advice that the expansion of the scheme is not expected to have a substantial impact on the availability of disability parking spaces, with an anticipated increase of approximately 7.5% in permit eligibility.

Since 2012, Council has invested more than \$230 million to make Brisbane more accessible, connected and inclusive through the Brisbane Access and Inclusion Plan and Seniors' Strategy. This commitment has seen Brisbane transform into a place where more local residents can participate than ever before.

One of the ongoing actions in Council's *A City for Everyone: Inclusive Brisbane Plan 2019-2029* is to maintain the provision of accessible parking spaces around the city and kerb ramps at key loading and set-down zones. The proposed amendments will provide more people with the opportunity to access and use these facilities.

Council notes that the proposed increase in the infringement notice fine for the offence of stopping in a disability parking bay without a permit, from \$266 (two penalty units) to \$533 (four penalty units), will result in it being one of the highest fines for this offence in Australia.

Given that Council officers will be involved in the enforcement of these offences, it is considered critical that the Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads undertake an effective education and communication campaign to ensure that drivers are aware of the increased fines both prior to and after introduction and to discourage misuse of disability parking spaces.

- 2 -

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Marie Gales, Manager, Transport Planning and Operations, Brisbane Infrastructure, on (07) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Colin Jensen  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**