Queensland Government Response to
Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 9

Examination of the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

Introduction

The Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 aims to:

- clarify the legal standing of certain historically granted tenures, activities and entitlements under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* and *Petroleum Act 1923*,

- repeal the *Personalised Transport Ombudsman Act 2019* and make minor consequential amendments to the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994,*

- ensure water restrictions can be equitability investigated and enforced across the South East Queensland region by amending the South East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to align with the powers local government water service providers have under the *Local Government Act 2009,*

- exclude cyber security measures, reported to the Water Supply Regulator, from being made publicly available to mitigate the risk of malicious attacks on water service providers and water supply schemes by amending the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.*

The Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 9 outlines the committee's analysis of the Bill and includes three recommendations.

In accordance with section 107 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the Government response to recommendations two and three are below.

Response to Recommendations

Recommendation No. 2

The committee recommends the Department of Transport and Main Roads investigate the banning and recall of licence plates issued by Personalised Plates Queensland that misrepresent themselves as limousines or taxis.

Government Response

The Government supports the recommendation.

It is important for passengers to be able to clearly identify their personalised transport vehicle, to ensure they only enter appropriately licensed vehicles and are not at risk of being picked up by the wrong vehicle.

Certain plates that include the word 'TAXI' are already banned from sale. The Department of Transport and Main Roads will investigate the option of expanding the ban to cover other personalised plates that have the potential to mislead the public into thinking that vehicles are licensed limousines or taxis.

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A small number of potentially misleading personalised plates have been issued previously. Any recall needs to consider section 102 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010*, which allows the recall of plates that are contrary to the public interest. The Government will investigate whether there are sufficient grounds for these plates to be recalled for exchange if it is decided to ban the sale of these plates.

Recommendation No. 3

The committee recommends the Department of Transport and Main Roads publish material to inform the public about limousine and taxi licence plates and the differences to book hire vehicles.

Government Response

The Government supports the recommendation.

The Queensland Government website already provides advice on how the public can identify taxis, limousines and booked hire vehicles. This includes information on the distinctive registration plates for taxis and limousines and on the identification signs that must be displayed by booked hire vehicles. The advice and information is available at: https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/public/operators/information-for-passengers/safety-and-security/identifying-your-vehicle

In addition, the Department of Transport and Main Roads' personalised transport register enables the public to view details of current booked hire service licences, limousine licences and taxi service licences. This means that a passenger can search the register for the number plate of their vehicle to ensure that it is currently licensed.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will continue to educate the public on how to safely identify taxis, limousines and booked hire vehicles, including through social media.