

Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Name of the proposal	Exempting particular vehicles from inspection certificate requirements
Submission type	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021</i>
Date of issue	June 2026

Proposal type	Details
Regulatory proposals where no RIA is required	Background Under the <i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021</i> (the VSS Regulation), the inspection certificate requirements in sections 71(1) and 75(1) do not apply to vehicles in exempt areas. A Certificate of Inspection (COI) and a safety certificate are both types of inspection certificates. Certain vehicles, such as taxis, rideshare vehicles, licenced tow trucks and heavy vehicles are ordinarily required to have a COI in place at all times. Section 71(2)(f) of the VSS Regulation exempts these vehicles from the requirement when they are operated solely within an exempt area. Section 75 of the VSS Regulation prohibits a vehicle owner from disposing of a registered vehicle without an inspection certificate. For COI vehicles, this means a COI. For all other vehicles (for example, passenger vehicles and motorbikes), this means a safety certificate. However, pursuant to section 75(2)(b) this requirement does not apply if the vehicle owner lives in an exempt area and disposes of the vehicle within an exempt area. Exempt areas, listed in schedule 2 of the VSS Regulation, are primarily regional and remote parts of Queensland where access to vehicle inspection services are limited. As these vehicles operate in regional areas with low traffic volumes and population density, the financial and practical costs of travelling long distances for inspections outweigh the safety benefits. Inclusion of Weipa Town Authority Area as an Exempt Area A review of the Cook Shire exemption area identified an anomaly relating to the Weipa Town Authority area (Weipa). Although geographically within the Cook Shire local government boundaries, Weipa is governed independently and is not part of Cook Shire. Because Weipa is not recognised as an exempt area, inspection certificate (COI and safety certificate) requirements are not exempted. As a result, a current COI is required for all vehicles used within Weipa, and safety certificates and COIs are required for vehicle disposal, adding unnecessary financial and regulatory burden for vehicle operators, buyers and sellers. These burdens are not faced by residents in neighbouring exempt areas such as Cook Shire. To address this, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has implemented interim measures that temporarily exempt Weipa/administratively add Weipa to the list of exempt areas.

A minor amendment to the VSS Regulation is proposed to formalise these arrangements by permanently recognising Weipa as an exempt area under Schedule 2. This change would ensure consistent treatment of Weipa residents relative to surrounding local government areas, including Cook, Mapoon and Napranum.

Exempting vehicles used solely on certain coastal islands from COI requirements

Currently, vehicles on Queensland islands without access to an Approved Inspection Station (AIS) are exempt from safety certificate requirements. However, vehicles used solely on coastal islands south of Port Douglas are still required to obtain a COI, even when no AIS is available to inspect that type of vehicle. This creates a regulatory inconsistency for island communities.

Transporting vehicles to the mainland for inspection is often impractical or prohibitively expensive, especially when the vehicle would ordinarily never leave the island. Currently, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator undertakes periodic COI inspections on a small number of islands, although these visits involve significant cost and effort relative to the very small number of inspections conducted. Further, as there is a lack of appropriate inspection sites on these islands, the inspections undertaken are also not as comprehensive as those undertaken on the mainland in dedicated facilities.

To resolve this anomaly, an amendment to the VSS Regulation is proposed to exempt COI requirements for vehicles used solely on islands that:

- are not connected to the mainland by a bridge, and
- do not have an AIS capable of inspecting that type of vehicle.

Vehicles requiring a COI that can be inspected on the island by an AIS, or that travel to the mainland for any reason, will still be required to hold a current inspection certificate. As such, existing AIS on islands such as Hamilton and Stradbroke Islands, will continue operating without impact.

Road safety outcomes will continue to be maintained through targeted police and transport inspection and enforcement activities.

The proposals are deregulatory in nature and do not increase costs or impose additional regulatory burden on businesses or the community. As such, no regulatory impact analysis is required under the *Queensland Better Regulation Policy*.

Signed



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Brent Mickelberg MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Date: 10/6 / 2026

Date: 11 / 6 / 2026