



**QUEENSLAND
GOVERNMENT**

Transport and Main Roads

**Taxi Subsidy Scheme
Eligibility and Entitlements Review 2012
Terms of Reference**

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1 Background to Review

1.1 The Taxi Subsidy Scheme

- 1.1.1 The Department of Transport and Main Roads administers the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) through the provisions of Division 5 of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005*.
- 1.1.2 The TSS provides people with severe disabilities resulting in mobility impairment and disadvantage with a 50% discount on taxi fares, up to a limit of \$25.00 subsidy for each trip; however the number of trips taken are unlimited.

1.2 Review request

- 1.2.1 TSS expenditure is demand-driven with no limits imposed on eligible TSS members.
- 1.2.2 Demographic, passenger demand and traffic movement trends indicate the need for a growth management strategy for the TSS program if it is to become and remain sustainable in the future.

2 Review process

2.1 Review objectives

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the review are to develop an eligibility and entitlements platform for TSS that:
 - is economically sustainable;
 - continues to provide support for the most transport disadvantaged members of the community; and
 - manages future growth of the scheme.
- 2.1.2 Aside from these objectives, the review report may also comment about efficiency and effectiveness of the TSS and its application if they are observed during the review.
- 2.1.3 The review should aim to provide a benchmark for the best practice taking into account community transport options, regional limitations, and demographic, passenger demand and traffic movement trends.

2.2 Review scope

- 2.2.1 The review should include:
 - an assessment of the existing TSS eligibility criteria, and recommendations for changes;
 - how TSS operates in conjunction with, or duplicates, other transport schemes such as Queensland Health's Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, DETE's School Transport Assistance Program for Students with Disabilities, Centrelink's Mobility Allowance, DVA's Recreation Transport Allowance and Local Government's Council Cabs; and
 - recommendations for future funding of TSS.

2.3 Review approach

- 2.3.1 The review will be conducted in a staged manner:

- *Stage One: Review.* This will involve convening a review panel to provide recommendations within the scope of this document. The review panel will be convened by TMR as lead agency, chaired by Neil Scales, Deputy Director-General (TransLink Division) and consist of representatives of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Health, and community and disability sector representatives;
- *Stage Two: Consideration by Government.* Upon completion of the review, the Review Panel recommendations will be put forward to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for consideration and decision;
- *Stage Three: Preparation for Implementation.* This will incorporate any regulatory, systems and business process alterations that are required as a result of the decisions made by government. Communication with TSS members and other stakeholders will be required to advise of the decisions made by government.
- *Stage Four: Implementation.*

2.4 Review outcomes

- 2.4.1 On conclusion of stage one, a report detailing the review findings will be prepared for government consideration.
- 2.4.2 The report will include recommendations to address the review findings.

3 Nominated manager's responsibilities

- 3.1.1 The nominated manager for the review is the Executive Director (Taxis, PT Standards and Regional Operations)
- 3.1.2 The nominated manager is required to:
- allocate a project manager to the review; and
 - ensure staff provide the necessary assistance and records to enable the efficient and timely conduct of the review
- 3.1.3 Monitor the progress of the review
- 3.1.4 Implement the decision made by government

4 Proposed delivery schedule

- 4.1.1 At this stage, it is envisaged that the following dates will apply with respect to the commencement and progress of the review. The nominated manager will be advised in the event of any changes to the deliverable schedule.
- The terms of reference will be confirmed by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads by no later than 12 October 2012.
 - The first meeting of the review panel will be held no later than 16 November 2012.
 - The review panel will deliver its report and recommendations to government by no later than 22 February 2013.
 - Communication of the government's decision will be included in the 2013/14 budget.
 - Implementation of the government's decision will occur on 1 July 2013

