

SECTION: Protocol and International Engagement **NUMBER:** GES.PRO.014

SUBJECT: Issue of CC Plates and Registration Concessions

AUTHORISED:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This document outlines the policies and procedures governing the issue of CC plates and registration concessions in Queensland.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to Consular Posts and Overseas Missions established in Queensland and to Career Consuls, Honorary Consuls and Mission Officers appointed to serve in Queensland.

3. References and Authority

- 3.1 *Cabinet Decision No. 52831* of 26 October 1987 (File Reference F605).
- 3.2 *Vienna Convention on Consular Relations*, dated 24 April 1963 (entry into force for Australia - 14 March 1973).
- 3.3 *Protocol Guidelines* dated 1 November 1994, issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra.

4. Definitions

- 4.1 **“CC Plates”** - customised motor vehicle number plates issued by Queensland Transport (Department of Main Roads) to eligible Consular Posts, Career Consuls and Honorary Consuls. CC is an abbreviation for Consular Corps – the organisation which represents both career and honorary consuls.
- 4.2 **“Consular Post”** refers to a Consulate-General, Consulate, Vice-Consulate or Consular Agency in Queensland.
- 4.3 **“Career Consul”** refers to any Consul-General, Consul or Vice-Consul who is both a foreign national of the country he/she represents and a career officer of that country’s Foreign Service. It does not refer to any other foreign nationals employed in a Consular Post.
- 4.4 **“Honorary Consul”** refers to any Honorary Consul-General, Honorary Consul, Honorary Vice-Consul or Honorary Consular Agent appointed to head a Consular Post in Queensland.

- 4.5 “**Overseas Mission**” refers to an official mission established in Australia to represent a foreign territory, such as Taipei, in one or more capacity.
- 4.6 “**Mission Officer**” is a reference to a person whom privileges and immunities are conferred, in respect of TECO (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office), by the Taipei Economic and Cultural (Privileges and Immunities) Regulations 1998 – REG 3. In these regulations, a reference to a person on whom privileges and immunities are conferred by these regulations is a reference to a person who is assigned (in whatever capacity) to TECO by the responsible agency in Taipei and is not engaged in employment in Australia other than by TECO, or is a member of the family of such a person; is not a permanent resident of Australia; is not an Australian citizen and is not engaged in the technical or administrative service of the designated mission.

5. Guidelines

- 5.1 CC plates are issued as a courtesy by the Queensland Government. The various categories of eligibility and the relevant entitlements and government charges or exemptions applicable to each category are as follows:

5.1.1 Consular Posts (headed by a Career Consul only)

Entitlement: One (1) set of CC plates for a motor vehicle registered in the name of the Consular Post (*limited to one (1) vehicle for every two (2) Career Consuls employed in the Consular Post*).

Fees: Exempt from payment of State Government taxes (eg motor vehicle fee, traffic improvement fee, stamp duty). Not exempt from payment of special purpose charges (eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee) or fees for service.

5.1.2 Career Consuls

Entitlement: One (1) set of CC plates for a motor vehicle registered in the name of the Career Consul. A second set of CC plates may be issued for another vehicle registered in the name of a Career Consul, if that person is accompanied by a spouse.

Fees: Same as for 5.1.1.

5.1.3 Honorary Consuls

Entitlement: One (1) set of CC plates for a vehicle which must be registered in the name of the Honorary Consul. Honorary Consuls are not entitled to a second set of CC plates for their spouse.

Fees: Exempt from payment of motor vehicle fee and traffic improvement fee. Not exempt from payment of stamp duty, special purpose charges (eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee) or fees for service.

- 5.2 CC plates are issued as customised plates, allowing Consular Posts and Career and Honorary Consuls to retain the same numbers indefinitely. The registration of such vehicles cannot be transferred however, although transfers between Career Consuls may be an exception. In such instances, Queensland Transport requires a letter of explanation from the Head of the Consular Post. When disposing of a vehicle that has been issued with CC plates, the registration must be cancelled or the vehicle converted to standard plates.
- 5.3 If a Career Consul or an Honorary Consul ceases to hold such position in Queensland, entitlement to CC plates also ceases and the plates must be surrendered to Queensland Transport within fourteen (14) days.
- 5.4 The display of CC plates on a vehicle does not entitle the driver of that vehicle to any immunity in respect of the traffic laws of this State and they may be given a traffic or parking infringement notice. Flagrant disregard of such laws may result in withdrawal of the CC plates.
- 5.5 Vehicles registered to Overseas Missions such as TECO (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office) or its officers in Queensland are **NOT** entitled to CC number plates (Consular Corps) but standard issue plates.
- 5.6 Only vehicles registered correctly (see below) are eligible for registration concessions. Vehicles registered in the name of a company or some other entity are not entitled to registration concessions.
- **Overseas Mission** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Overseas Mission;
 - **Mission Officer** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Mission Officer (or jointly with spouse).

5.6.1 Overseas Missions

Entitlement: One (1) set of standard issue plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 5.6 *[limited to one (1) vehicle for every two (2) Mission Officers employed in the Overseas Mission]*.

Fees: Exempt from payment of State Government taxes [eg motor vehicle fee, traffic improvement fee]. Not exempt from payment of stamp duty, special purpose charges [eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee] or any fees for service.

5.6.2 Mission Officers

Entitlement: One (1) set of standard issue plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 5.6 *[limited to one (1) vehicle for every two (2) Mission Officers employed in the Overseas Mission]*.

Fees: Exempt from payment of State Government taxes [eg motor vehicle fee, traffic improvement fee]. Not exempt from payment of stamp duty, special purpose charges [eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee] or any fees for service.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 The Director, Protocol and International Engagement (DPQ), is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for authorising the issue of CC plates and registration concessions. Contact details are as follows:

The Director
Protocol and International Engagement
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
PO Box 15185
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Tel: (07) 3003 9249
Email: protocol@premiers.qld.gov.au

6.2 Queensland Transport is responsible for the manufacture, issue and surrender of CC plates.

6.3 The Queensland State Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for informing Protocol and International Engagement of:

- openings and closures of Consular Posts and Overseas Missions in Queensland;
- appointments of new Honorary Consuls;
- resignations of Honorary Consuls.

6.4 The Head of the each Consular Post and Mission Office is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions outlined in 5.1 to 5.6.

7. Procedures

7.1 Each applicant (i.e. a Consular Post or a Career or Honorary Consul) should submit a completed *Application for CC Plates* form (**see Attachment 1**) to the Director, Protocol and International Engagement, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, PO Box 15185, City East QLD 4002.

7.2 Each applicant (i.e. an Overseas Mission or Mission Officer) should submit a completed *Application for Registration Concessions* form (**see Attachment 2**) to the Director, Protocol and International Engagement, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, PO Box 15185, City East QLD 4002.

7.3 Protocol and International Engagement checks the applicant's details against its records and, if necessary, with the Queensland State Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. If the application complies with the Government's guidelines, the form is authorised by the DPQ, or delegated officer, and returned to the applicant for lodgement with Queensland Transport.

7.4 As details of the resignation of Honorary Consuls or the departure of Career Consuls are received by the Queensland State Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, these officers are reminded they are required to return CC number plates to Queensland Transport. (Refer 5.3).

8. Attachments

Attachment 1 *Application for CC Plates* Form

Attachment 2 *Application for Registration Concessions* Form

1. GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUE OF CC PLATES TO THE QUEENSLAND CONSULAR CORPS

1.1 These guidelines relate to consular representatives in Queensland. CC plates are issued as a courtesy by the Queensland Government. The various categories of eligibility and the relevant entitlements and government charges or exemptions applicable to each category are as follows:

A	Consular Posts [Headed by Career Consuls only] Entitlement: One (1) set of CC plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 1.2 <i>[limited to one (1) vehicle for every two (2) Career Consuls employed in the Consular Post]</i> . Fees: Exempt from payment of State Government taxes [eg motor vehicle fee, traffic improvement fee, stamp duty]. Not exempt from payment of special purpose charges [eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee] or any fees for service.
B	Career Consuls Entitlement: One (1) set of CC plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 1.2. A second set of CC plates may be issued for an additional vehicle, if accompanied by a spouse. Fees: Same as for category A.
C	Honorary Consuls [Head of Post only] Entitlement: One (1) set of CC plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 1.2. Honorary Consuls are not entitled to a second set of CC plates for their spouse. Fees: Exempt from payment of motor vehicle fee and traffic improvement fee. Not exempt from payment of stamp duty, special purpose charges (eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee) or fees for service.

1.2 Only vehicles registered correctly (see below) may be issued with CC plates. Vehicles registered in the name of a company or some other entity cannot be issued with CC plates.

- **category A** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Consular Post;
- **category B** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Career Consul (or jointly with spouse);
- **category C** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Honorary Consul (or jointly with spouse).

1.3 CC plates are issued similar to corporate plates, enabling them to be transferred to a replacement vehicle whilst ever the holder remains eligible for such plates. Accordingly, once CC plates have been authorised, it is unnecessary to submit a further *Application for CC Plates*. If the CC plates are not being transferred to a replacement vehicle, they must be surrendered to Queensland Transport within fourteen (14) days. CC plates cannot be transferred to another Consular Post, Career Consul or Honorary Consul or any other person or entity. When disposing of a vehicle that has been issued with CC plates, it must be converted to standard plates.

1.4 If a Consular Post ceases to exist or if a Career or Honorary Consul ceases to hold such position, entitlement to CC plates also ceases and the plates must be surrendered to Queensland Transport within fourteen (14) days.

1.5 The display of CC plates on a vehicle does not entitle the driver of that vehicle to any immunity in respect of the traffic laws of this State and they may be issued a traffic or parking infringement notice.

1.6 The Head of the each Consular Post is responsible for ensuring compliance with the above conditions.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 “**Consular Post**” refers to a Consulate-General, Consulate, Vice-Consulate or Consular Agency in Queensland.

2.2 “**Career Consul**” refers to any Consul-General, Consul or Vice-Consul who is both a foreign national of the country he/she represents and a career officer of that country’s Foreign Service. It does not refer to any other foreign nationals employed in a Consular Post.

2.3 “**Honorary Consul**” refers to any Honorary Consul-General, Honorary Consul, Honorary Vice-Consul or Honorary Consular Agent appointed to head a Consular Post in Queensland.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Applicant submits completed ***Application for CC Plates to the Queensland Consular Corps*** (see reverse side) to Director, Protocol and International Engagement, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, PO Box 15185, City East QLD 4002.

3.2 Protocol and International Engagement checks the details on the form against its records and, if necessary, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. If everything is in order, the form is authorised and returned to the applicant for lodgement with Queensland Transport.

APPLICATION FOR CC PLATES

(See reverse side for guidelines and procedures)



DETAILS OF APPLICANT [complete one (1) category only (A, B or C) in this section]

A	Consular Post:	
	Address: Postcode	
B	Career Consul (Family Name):	Christian or Given Names:
	Designation: <input type="checkbox"/> Consul-General <input type="checkbox"/> Consul <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Consul	Consular Post:
	Vehicle Use: <input type="checkbox"/> For applicant's use <input type="checkbox"/> For Spouse's use	Private Address: Postcode
C	Honorary Consul (Family Name):	Christian or Given Names:
	Designation: <input type="checkbox"/> Hon. Consul-General <input type="checkbox"/> Hon. Consul <input type="checkbox"/> Hon. Vice-Consul <input type="checkbox"/> Hon. Consular Agent	Consular Post:
		Private Address: Postcode

DETAILS OF VEHICLE

Make and Model:	Engine Number:
Vehicle registered in name of: (see Guideline 1.2)	
If applicant has previously been issued with registration plates, what is the plate number?	Plate Number:

CERTIFICATION BY HEAD OF CONSULAR POST

I hereby certify that the information provided above is correct. The guidelines governing the issue of CC plates (outlined on the reverse side of this form) have been noted.

Date

Head of Consular Post

Stamp or Seal

AUTHORISATION BY DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET

Applicant is eligible for CC Plates. Issue is subject to payment of fees applicable to relevant category (see guidelines).

Date

Director, Protocol and International Engagement

Stamp or Seal

1. GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION CONCESSIONS – (OVERSEAS MISSIONS OR OFFICERS - TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE)

1.1 These guidelines apply to Overseas Missions established in Queensland by Taipei. Registration concessions are provided to Overseas Missions as a courtesy by the Queensland Government. The categories of eligibility and the relevant entitlements and government charges or exemptions applicable to each category are as follows:

A	Overseas Mission (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office) Entitlement: One (1) set of standard issue plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 1.2 <i>[limited to one (1) vehicle for every two (2) Mission Officers employed in the Overseas Mission]</i> . Fees: Exempt from payment of State Government taxes [eg motor vehicle fee, traffic improvement fee]. Not exempt from payment of stamp duty, special purpose charges [eg compulsory third party insurance, plate issue fee] or any fees for service.
B	Mission Officers (Head of Mission or Mission Officer) Entitlement: One (1) set of standard issue plates for a motor vehicle registered in accordance with 1.2. A second set of standard issue plates may be issued for an additional vehicle, if accompanied by a spouse. Fees: Same as for category A.

1.2 Only vehicles registered correctly (see below) are eligible for registration concessions. Vehicles registered in the name of a company or some other entity are not entitled to registration concessions.

- **category A** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Overseas Mission;
- **category B** vehicles - must be registered in the name of the Mission Officer (or jointly with spouse).

1.3 Vehicles registered to TECO (Taipei Economic and Cultural Office) or its officers in Queensland are **NOT** entitled to CC number plates (Consular Corps)

1.4 The driver of these vehicles is not entitled to any immunity in respect of the traffic laws of this State and they may be issued a traffic or parking infringement notice.

1.5 The Head of the Mission is responsible for ensuring compliance with the above conditions.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 **“Overseas Mission”** refers to an official mission established in Australia to represent a foreign territory, such as Taipei, in one or more capacity.

2.2 **“Mission Officer”** is a reference to a person whom privileges and immunities are conferred by the Taipei Economic and Cultural (Privileges and Immunities) Regulations 1998 – REG 3. In these regulations, a reference to a person on whom privileges and immunities are conferred by these regulations is a reference to a person who is assigned (in whatever capacity) to TECO by the responsible agency in Taipei and is not engaged in employment in Australia other than by TECO, or is a member of the family of such a person; is not a permanent resident of Australia; is not an Australian citizen and is not engaged in the technical or administrative service of the designated mission.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Applicant submits completed ***Application for Registration Concessions – Taipei Economic and Cultural Office*** to Director, Protocol and International Engagement, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, PO Box 15185, City East QLD 4002.

3.2 Protocol and International Engagement checks the details on the form against its records and, if necessary, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. If everything is in order, the form is authorised and returned to the applicant for lodgement with Queensland Transport.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION CONCESSIONS – OVERSEAS MISSION OR MISSION OFFICER



DETAILS OF APPLICANT [complete one (1) category only (A or B) in this section]

A	Name of Mission:	
	Address:	
		Postcode
B	Mission Officer (Family Name):	Christian or Given Names:
	Designation/Title:	Name of Mission:
	Vehicle Use: <input type="checkbox"/> For applicant's use <input type="checkbox"/> For Spouse's use	Private Address:
		Postcode

DETAILS OF VEHICLE

Make and Model:	Engine Number:
Vehicle registered in name of: (see Guideline 1.2)	
If vehicle has previously been issued with registration plates, what is the plate number?	Plate Number:

CERTIFICATION BY HEAD OF MISSION

I hereby certify that the information provided above is correct. The guidelines governing the granting of motor vehicle registration concessions (*outlined in the attached guidelines*) have been noted.

Date

Head of Mission

Stamp or Seal

AUTHORISATION BY DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET

Applicant is eligible for motor vehicle registration concessions.

Date

Director, Protocol and International Engagement

Stamp or Seal