

**MEDIA STATEMENT****Action being taken to stamp out fraudulent vehicle safety certificates**

- The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is aware that a number of fraudulent vehicle safety certificates, also known as 'roadworthies' have been issued across Queensland.
- These certificates are being issued for sight-unseen vehicles, many of which are highly defective and would not pass a vehicle safety inspection.
- Fraudulent vehicle safety certificates pose a road safety risk to Queensland roads users. TMR is actively investigating and monitoring fraudulent behaviour and warns suppliers and buyers that they will be caught and penalised.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is taking action to stamp out fraudulent vehicle safety certificates, also known as 'roadworthies', with a number of fraudulent certificates being issued across Queensland.

TMR is aware that a number of certificates are being issued for sight-unseen vehicles, many of which are highly defective and would not pass a vehicle safety inspection.

Fraudulent vehicle safety certificates pose a road safety risk to Queensland roads users.

TMR is targeting fraudulent activity and serious consequences will be imposed on any Approved Inspection Station (AIS) or Approved Examiner (AE) issuing a safety certificate without conducting a thorough and appropriate vehicle inspection.

Where a vehicle is registered or attempted to be registered using a fraudulent certificate, TMR will issue a notice to the vehicle owner requiring the owner to obtain a new safety certificate, or the registration will be cancelled.

Investigations have identified that a large percentage of people that have obtained fraudulent certificates have knowingly sought out the fraudulent certificates to avoid paying for repairs to meet minimum safety standards before selling or registering a vehicle.

Buyers of fraudulent certificates should be aware that presenting a false or improperly obtained safety certificate is an offence and that they can be prosecuted.

TMR is also aware of fraudulent certificates being issued by third parties on social media who are not accredited by TMR under the AIS scheme. TMR is engaging with the Office of Fair Trading and Queensland Police Service on this matter.

Vehicle owners can go to the TMR website to find an accredited AIS provider, the types of inspections they can perform and the maximum fees they can charge for a safety certificate.

TMR takes a holistic view to addressing these issues and will make any necessary scheme, legislative, system and process changes to ensure the integrity of the scheme, and strong action can be taken against anyone attempting to undermine our vehicle inspection scheme.

**Quotes attributable to the Department of Transport and Main Roads Director General Sally Stannard**

"Don't get caught up by scammers. Buying a safety certificate on social media like Facebook or via text

message without a proper physical inspection by an accredited provider could cost you dearly.

“It is an offence to present a false safety certificate as part of your vehicle registration. Not only does it pose a safety issue for you and other road users, but where there is reasonable suspicion that a safety certificate has been issued without a complete physical inspection, TMR will order that a new safety certificate be obtained or cancel your vehicle registration.

“Choosing a used vehicle is a big decision. I urge buyers to research and inspect the vehicle you plan to buy and know your rights when buying it.

“Legal protections are provided when purchasing a used vehicle from a licensed motor dealer. Buyers should exercise caution when buying from a private seller.

**Explainer/fast fact and or further information (when required/relevant):**

- TMR requires vehicles to obtain a vehicle safety certificate upon transfer of ownership, or when registering an unregistered vehicle as a new business transaction.
- TMR accredits approved examiners, who are engaged by AISs, to issue these certificates and they must be based on a physical inspection of the vehicle at an AIS to ensure it meets minimum safety requirements before being registered and used on road.
- Upon completing an inspection, an AIS will issue a certificate electronically through TMR’s Inspection Certificate Online (ICO) system. There are certain circumstances that TMR permit the use of a handwritten certificate, however in most cases an electronic certificate is issued.

**ENDS**

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Optional plan (base - Weipa Town Authority Masterplan with MSQ added boat ramp/pontoon and notation)

Image 1 – Concept design Rocky Point boat ramp

