

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD

Business Paper

OPEN SESSION

ITEM

Review of Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- the Board approve amendments to the *Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy 2015* to incorporate additional elements aimed at limiting the overall number of vehicles and the impact of vehicle movements on the island's road system as well as best practice biosecurity clearance procedures
- the amended Policy be placed on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days, only being reported back to the Board if there are any submissions opposing the changes to the policy.

BACKGROUND

At the March 2017 Board meeting, there was discussion in closed session regarding the Board's Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy. Local Board Members were asked to review the Board's policy position particularly in relation to electric vehicles for consideration by the full Board at its next meeting.

CURRENT POSITION

This review has been undertaken and the outcome is presented in this report. The Policy has also been updated to take account of revised Commonwealth Government Green Vehicle Guide information and biosecurity procedures. Proposed changes follow with reference to the relevant section/clause number of the Policy:

1. Policy overview (1)

Lord Howe Island is a small and environmentally sensitive World-heritage listed island, with only 12.3kms of public road network. There is a need to protect the environment but also balance that with meeting the economic and social needs of the Island community. Vehicles serve a social and economic purpose and have a legitimate place on the island. Balancing the competing needs and demands means however that vehicle numbers and impacts have to be managed. The focus therefore is on limiting the number of vehicles which are permitted as well as stating a strong preference for smaller low impact vehicles. With the development of viable electric vehicles and approval of conditional

registration for their use on the Island's road network, electric vehicles are encouraged to take the place of larger petrol-driven vehicles.

The Board's Policy has been amended to reflect this position, as follows:

The aim of this policy is to work towards limiting the overall number and impact of vehicle movements on the island's road system, with a particular focus on the types of vehicles driven on the island. The vision is for the Island's fleet to consist of a limited number of low impact vehicles, with electric vehicles being encouraged.

2. Preferred Vehicles (4.1)

Preferred vehicles are (i) small and light-weight vehicles and (ii) electric vehicles. As the Commonwealth Government "Green Vehicle Guide" no longer provides guidance on preferred vehicles, this reference has been deleted from the Policy and dimensions provided which enable the smallest vehicles available in the Australian market to meet the requirements of this section.

3. Vehicle size (3.7 & 3.8)

Maximum dimensions have been amended for private use vehicles, increasing the width slightly (5cm) but reducing the height (10cm), which would enable a 2 wheel drive utility to be approved, but not a 4 wheel drive utility.

Maximum dimensions have also been amended for commercial use vehicles, increasing the width by 10cm (allowing for a wider tray) but reducing the height by 10cm, which also allows for a 2 wheel drive but not a 4 wheel drive utility. Any business applying for a 4 wheel drive vehicle for commercial use would have to make a strong case that it is needed for specialised work that cannot be done by a 2 wheel drive vehicle.

4. Plant and Equipment (4.7)

This section has been amended to provide greater clarification that any plant and equipment which use the Island's roads need to have approval under the Policy.

5. Incentives (6)

An additional incentive has been included which enables the installation of a "Smart" meter, if not already installed, for an electrical vehicle to be 'at cost'.

6. Commercial vehicle approval period (10.2)

This section has been amended to reflect current practice, i.e. that a commercial vehicle approval ceases when the business it is attached to ceases to operate.

7. Biosecurity measures (11)

The requirement for inspection and cleaning prior to importation has been extended to any vehicle approved under the Policy, whether they be new or old, and includes trailers, plant and equipment. The reason for this is because any vehicle prior to importation has the opportunity to pick up pests, weeds and seeds. New vehicles are driven to Port Macquarie and then may wait for some time before being loaded onto the vessel. Biosecurity measures need to be applied consistently to all vehicles.

8. Deceased estates (11)

Clarification has been added about limitations on the use and disposition of vehicles belonging to deceased estates.

Amendments have been made to the Policy to reflect the above position, which can be seen in track changes in the attached Policy and Application Form

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- the Board approve amendments to the the *Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy 2015* to incorporate additional elements aimed at limiting the overall number of vehicles and the impact of vehicle movements on the island's road system as well as best practice biosecurity clearance procedures
- the amended Policy be placed on Public Exhibition for a period of 28 days, only being reported back to the Board if there are any submissions opposing the changes to the policy.

Endorsed: Penny Holloway, Chief Executive Officer

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD POLICY

TITLE	Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy		
DATE ADOPTED	December 2006	AGENDA ITEM	8ii December 2006
CURRENT VERSION	May 2017	AGENDA ITEM	8(i v ⁱⁱ) May 2017
REVIEW	Biannually	FILE REFERENCE	PO0008
ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION	<i>Lord Howe Island Act 1953 (NSW)</i> <i>Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014 (NSW)</i> <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>		
ASSOCIATED POLICIES	N/A		

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1 Policy Overview

The aim of this policy is to work towards limiting the overall number and impact of vehicle movements on the island's road system, with a particular focus on the types of vehicles driven on the island. The vision is for the Island's fleet to consist of a limited number of low impact vehicles, with electric vehicles being encouraged.

The ~~LHB~~ Board has developed this policy to guide its management of vehicles on the island, in accordance with the provisions of the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014. The policy is to guide the Board's use of the powers provided for under the Regulation regarding motor vehicles so that vehicle and traffic management is aligned with the expectations and aspirations of the community, and with the island's environment and economy.

The Board will determine whether the importation of a vehicle is in the public interest and consider the likely impacts of the vehicle, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts on the island. Unless otherwise provided for under this policy, no entitlement to import or use a vehicle is provided for. All applications to import or transfer and use a vehicle will need to demonstrate a genuine need for the import or transfer, and use of a vehicle, and for the vehicle selected.

In particular, the Board will manage vehicle importation to ~~reduce~~ limit the number of vehicles on the island, and the frequency and intensity of their use, to ensure that the impacts of vehicles and traffic on the island are minimised.

The Board recognises that the frequency and intensity of vehicle use are major influences on road safety, aesthetics and ambience of the island and where possible should be kept to a minimum.

The Board will continue to review and develop the policy, and associated programs and initiatives. These reviews will occur biannually.

2 Legislative Framework

The Board's power to regulate motor vehicles on Lord Howe Island is established under Part 6 of the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014, in particular clauses 84, 86 and 87. Essentially, the Board's approval is required for any importation of a vehicle to the island (c 84), hire of motor vehicles (c86) and for any use of that vehicle on the island, including how a vehicle is used (c 87).

84 Approval to import motor vehicles

- (1) A person must not, except in accordance with the approval of the Board, bring a motor vehicle onto the Island.
Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.
- (2) An application for approval to bring a motor vehicle onto the Island must relate to one vehicle only.

86 Hire of motor vehicles

- (1) A person must not, except in accordance with the approval of the Board, hire or offer for hire a motor vehicle to any other person for use on the Island.
Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units.
- (2) This clause applies whether or not the person from whom the motor vehicle is or is to be hired, or any employee or agent of that person, is to drive or ride the motor vehicle.

87 Use of motor vehicles

- (1) A person must not drive or ride a motor vehicle on the Island unless the Board has given its approval to the use of that vehicle on the Island.
- (2) A person who has obtained the approval of the Board under this clause may drive or ride the motor vehicle concerned only in accordance with that approval.

2.1 Relevant Legislative Provisions Relating To Approvals:

Under Part 1, clause 4 (2) of the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014, any approval given by the Board

is subject to Chapter 7, Part 1, Division 3 of the Local Government Act 1993. This part of the Local Government Act (LG Act) specifies how approvals are to be applied for, made, amended and terminated. In particular, under Section 94 of the LG Act, the Board may apply conditions to any approval, and may apply a time limit on any approval. Under Section 103 of the LG Act, an approval, unless otherwise specified, lapses by default after five (5) years.

3 Definitions

3.1 Motor Vehicle (from here on referred to as a “vehicle”):

As defined under the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014 (c 83):

A motor vehicle means a vehicle (other than an aircraft or a vessel) propelled by volatile spirit, steam, gas, oil or electricity and includes:

- (a) An incomplete or partially constructed motor vehicle; or
- (b) The chassis, body, frame or remains of a motor vehicle; or
- (c) A trailer or caravan.

Note: For the purpose of this policy, the above definition includes motor vehicles, motorbikes, mopeds (pedal assisted or non pedal assisted), motor scooters, mini bikes, quad bikes, trikes etc whether the motor is a permanent or temporary fixture and regardless of whether a motor vehicle licence or registration is required. A Power Assisted Pedal Cycle as defined by the NSW [Roads and Maritime Services \(RMS\)](#) is not considered a Motor Vehicle under this Policy.

3.2 Reside

As defined under the Lord Howe Island Act 1953.

3.3 Dwelling

As defined under the Lord Howe Island Local Environment Plan 2010 and the Board’s policy definition of a Separate Domicile, but not including Staff Accommodation as defined under Lord Howe Island LEP 2010.

3.4 Tenant

A person who lawfully occupies an approved dwelling on the island under a tenancy arrangement in accordance with the NSW Residential Tenancy Act.

3.5 Essential Services

Essential services for the purpose of this policy are set out in the Schedule of Essential Services

3.6 Vehicle Hire

To hire, attempt to hire, expose for hire or solicit for hire any vehicle on the island, to any person, for money or other consideration of any kind.

3.7 Vehicles for Private Use

For the purpose of this policy, any lawful use of a vehicle, including activities approved in a business licence issued under clause 49 of the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014, but not including vehicle hire.

As a result of community concern over road safety, [the Board LHH](#) has introduced maximum size of a vehicle for private use permissible on the island is:

- a) Length 5200mm (not including tow ball);
- b) Width 18590mm (not including side mirrors); and
- c) Height 17800 mm (not including roof racks or roll bars [or headboard on the tray](#)).

Note: this maximum size requirement does not apply to vehicles previously approved.

3.8 Vehicles for Commercial Use

For the purpose of this policy, any vehicle which has been specifically applied for and approved under the policy provisions relating to Commercial Vehicles.

As a result of community concern over the number of oversized vehicles, [the Board LHH](#) has introduced [a maximum size of a standard vehicle for commercial use permissible on the island, which is based on the current model of a 2 wheel drive Toyota Hilux utility, which in 2017 was:](#)

- a) Length 5200mm (not including tow ball);
- b) Width 19580mm (not including side mirrors); and
- c) Height 17800 mm (not including roof racks, ~~or~~ roll bars [or headboard on the tray](#)).

Note: this maximum size requirement does not apply to vehicles previously approved.

Where a vehicle with different dimensions to the standard is required for specialised work, the case must be made as to why a non-standard vehicle should be approved.

3.9 Commercial Use

To sell or hire, attempt to sell or hire, expose for sale, hire or profit or solicit for sale, hire or profit any article, thing or service to any person, or conduct, or assist in the conduct of, any amusement, entertainment, instruction, performance or activity for money or other consideration of any kind.

3.10 Power Assisted Pedal Cycle

A power-assisted pedal cycle under this policy is defined by the NSW [RMSTA](#).

A power-assisted pedal cycle is designed to be propelled primarily by a pedalling cyclist and has one or more auxiliary propulsion motor attached. This means that the main source of propulsion for the power-assisted pedal cycle is human, and the motor is only designed to assist rather than replace the rider.

Power Assisted Pedal Cycles are only permitted for private use without approval. They are not allowed to be used for Hire purposes unless approval has been granted by the [LHH](#) Board.

3.11 Motorised wheelchairs and mobility scooters

A motorised wheelchair under this policy is defined by the Transport for NSW.

Motorised wheelchairs are mobility aids with two or more wheels and have a top speed of 10km/h on level ground. Mobility scooters or 'gophers' are classified as motorised wheelchairs. A motorised wheelchair does not include a wheeled recreational device such as a motor scooter, pram, stroller, trolley or any other motor-assisted machine.

Motorised wheelchairs are only permitted for private use without approval. They are not allowed to

be used for Hire purposes unless approval has been granted by the LHI Board.

3.12 Bull bars/Roo bars/Nudge bars

Bull bars/roo bars etc are not permitted to be imported on a vehicle or added to a vehicle on LHI unless approval is given by [the CEO of the Board LHH](#). The CEO ~~LHH~~ may only grant approval for a request for a bull bar/roo bar if it includes a winch and if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that the winch is [essential to the vehicle's use](#) ~~required~~.

Where it can be demonstrated that vehicles come standard with a "nudge bar" the ~~CEO of the Board LHH~~ will take this into consideration when assessing a request to import a vehicle.

Second-hand vehicles with a bull bar already attached will be required to have the bull bar/roo bar removed prior to importation to island.

Note 2: [this item does not apply to vehicles which have bull bars/roo bars and have previously been approved for importation to the Island existing vehicles which have bull bars/roo bars are exempt from seeking approval.](#)

4 Vehicle Types

Any vehicle which is approved by the Board for importation and use on the islands roads, other than plant and equipment, or motor assisted pedal bicycles, unless required by law, must be registrable and registered in the State of NSW.

4.1 Preferred Vehicles

The Board will give preference, by way of incentives, to the importation and use of [small and low impact](#) vehicles which are either:

- a) A motor vehicle meeting the following requirements
 - ~~i. Identified in the Commonwealth Government "Green Vehicle Guide" (www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au) as a small car with a 4 star rating or above (as of 28 Feb 2012 - 172 vehicles); and~~
 - ~~ii. Generate noise less than 82 dba (data on noise emissions - provided in green vehicle www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au); and~~
 - ~~iii. Have vehicle size "footprint"~~
 - Length ~~4039~~4000mm (max)
 - Width 1700mm (max)
 - Height ~~1670~~1600mm (max)
- b) Electric Vehicles
 - i. Electric vehicles include any vehicle that has battery storage and has an electricity plug-in recharge capacity. These vehicles (or the batteries for these vehicles) must have the ability to be plugged into an electricity power point connected to the LHI Grid. Approval to import an electric vehicle will be conditional on the leaseholder upgrading their electricity meter to a "Smart" meter, [if not already installed](#).
 - ii. Hybrid electric vehicles that do not have a plug in recharge capacity are not deemed electric vehicles for the purpose of this policy.
 - iii. Electric vehicles for private use must not exceed the maximum vehicle footprint as defined under Section 3.
- c) Motor Scooters
 - i. 4 stroke motor scooters with a maximum capacity of 250cc

4.2 Other Vehicles

Any other vehicle may be imported subject to this policy. The Board will retain absolute discretion in determining an application and will consider whether the importation of a vehicle is in the public interest and the likely impacts of the vehicle, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts on the island.

4.3 Boat Trailers

Approval to import and use boat trailers will be at the discretion of the Board subject to application on the prescribed form.

4.4 Box Trailers

Approval to import and use box trailers will be at the discretion of the Board subject to application on the prescribed form.

4.5 Caravans

The importation of caravans is prohibited under this policy.

4.6 Specialist / Other Trailers

Approval to import and use will be at the discretion of the Board and subject to application on the prescribed form.

4.7 Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment – being any [conditionally registered or](#) non-registrable vehicles such as tractors, forklifts, excavators, backhoes etc. Approval to import and use will be at the discretion of the Board and subject to written application [in accordance with this Policy](#).

This provisions of this ~~Pe~~-policy does not relate to:

- ~~a) Plant and equipment imported and used as part of an approved fleet plan of an Essential Service.~~

5 Fees

5.1 Importation or Transfer

- a) Vehicles meeting the Board's Preferred Vehicle criteria will be exempt from the importation application fee.
- b) A non-refundable application fee of \$200 per vehicle will apply to all applications for the importation or transfer of vehicles which do not meet the Board's Preferred Vehicle criteria.
- c) A non-refundable application fee of \$200 per vehicle will apply to all applications to renew a commercial vehicle or hire vehicle approval.
- d) Box trailers will be exempt from the above fee.
- e) Boat trailers will be exempt from the above fee.

6 Incentives

- a) Vehicles meeting the Board's Preferred Vehicle criteria will be exempt from the Board's

wharfage fee for the vehicle.

b) Box trailers will be exempt from the wharfage fee for the vehicle (limit of one exemption per lease).

~~b)c) If not already installed, installation of "Smart" meters for electric vehicles at residences and the importation of an electric vehicle, will be 'at cost' only, including the Board's Senior Officer (SEO) labour and parts. Access to free electricity for electric vehicles will be enabled~~

7 Eligibility to Import and Use

Unless otherwise provided for under this policy, no entitlement to import or use a vehicle is provided for. All applications to import or transfer and use a vehicle, including boat trailers and box trailers, will need to demonstrate a genuine need for the import or transfer, and use of a vehicle, and for the vehicle selected.

The Board reserves the right to reject any application for any vehicle where it believes that a vehicle is not in the public interest and/or the likely impacts of the vehicle, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts will be unacceptable for the island and/or where an applicant has failed to adequately justify the need for a proposed vehicle.

An application to import or transfer and use a vehicle must be made on the prescribed form and include any additional information as the Board may require or the applicant wishes to provide.

7.1 Eligibility

The following persons will be eligible to apply to import or transfer a vehicle:

7.1.1 Vehicles for Private Use

- a) A person who resides in an approved dwelling on a Perpetual Lease, either as: the holder, owner, or sub-lessee of the lease or; as the owner-occupant of a multiple occupancy or; by way of a current tenancy agreement under the NSW Residential Tenancy Act 1987 and has resided on the island for a continuous period of 24 months at time of application. Proof of Tenancy will be required and should be supplied with application.
- b) An employee of an Essential Service provider (other than ~~the Board~~^{LHI}) who does not have access to the private use of a vehicle provided by the Essential Service may apply to import or transfer a preferred vehicle if they can demonstrate to the Board a genuine need for the vehicle. This will only apply where the employee will occupy the position for a period greater than 12 months and is subject to any specification set out in the schedule of Essential Service entitlements. Any approval will be in accordance with this policy. Approval under this clause will be terminated at the cessation of employment with the Essential Service provider.
- c) Lord Howe Island Board employees other than a person described in a), may after 12 months service staff apply to import a preferred vehicle in accordance with ~~LHI~~^{LHI} ~~the Board's~~ vehicle importation and use policy. Applications must demonstrate need for vehicle in accordance with this policy. Any approval will be in accordance with this policy. Approval to import vehicle will result in termination of private use rights of LHI Board vehicle. Approval under this clause will be terminated at the cessation of employment with the ~~Lord Howe Island~~ Board.
- d) A person who can demonstrate exceptional circumstance which cannot be addressed by this policy. In such cases, the Board may exercise discretion, provided that the applicant has demonstrated that no viable alternative to the importation and use of a vehicle exists.
- e) A person as per a) under **Private Use Eligibility** who:
 - i. Has no existing approval for a commercial vehicle which is suitable for private use;
 - ii. Does not reside with another person who has approval for a Commercial vehicle which is suitable for private use.

7.1.2 Commercial Use Eligibility

A person as per **a)** under **Private Use Eligibility** who operates an approved business on the island and can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that the business requires the use of a vehicle and that the business need cannot be met from the existing island fleet.

NOTE: *In general, the Board will only consider approval for a commercial vehicle for businesses which need to transport clients and guests and/or goods and equipment and then only when the business need cannot be serviced from an existing allocation within the island's fleet. Motor Assisted Pedal Bicycles will not be approved for commercial use.*

7.1.3 Vehicles for Essential Services

Any authorised officer of an approved Essential Service, as set out in the Schedule of Essential Services in this Policy.

7.1.4 Vehicles for Hire

- a) Any person eligible under this policy who is also eligible to hold a business licence under clause 49 of the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014.
- b) The ~~Lord Howe Island~~ Board may from time to time hire out vehicles from its existing fleet where the proposed hire arrangement does not replicate or compete with an arrangement which could be provided by an approved hire vehicle operator as per **a)**.

7.2 Use

Any person who is lawfully entitled to do so, may use a vehicle on the island, and such persons will be deemed to have the approval of the Board to do so, subject to that use complying with this policy, and any conditions applying to any approval given under this policy.

All vehicles will be used on the island in accordance with all relevant State and Commonwealth legislation, policies and procedures.

7.3 Private and Commercial Use

Unless otherwise provided for in this policy, vehicles approved for private and/or commercial use may be used for any lawful purpose, including commercial use, except hire of the vehicle, provided that any commercial use is associated with an approved business on the island.

Where a person has approval for a private use vehicle and a commercial use vehicle, the commercial use vehicle cannot be used for private use.

7.4 Essential Services

Vehicles approved for essential services are to be used exclusively by the essential service provider and its employees or agents for its official business. ~~LHI~~ Board approval is required for Private Use of Essential Service vehicles. Private use will be limited to transferred officers of the Essential Service where the Essential Service provider has a documented policy applying to its employees or agents which allows for other uses.

Use restrictions will be set out as conditions of approval.

7.5 Hire Vehicle Use

Hire vehicles may be used for any lawful purpose, including commercial activity provided that the commercial activity is associated with an approved business on the island. Any hiring of a vehicle on the island will be subject to a lawful and documented hire agreement between the approved person (the hirer) and a person who has entered into such an agreement with the hirer (the hiree).

8 Allocations

The Board may approve up to the following allocations to eligible persons (refer to Eligibility provision), subject to demonstrated need.

8.1 Private Use

One (1) vehicle per approved dwelling.

8.2 Commercial Use

One vehicle per approved business licence. Where a person holds multiple business licences, additional vehicles will only be considered where there is a demonstrated need. Access to private use vehicles will be considered when assessing need.

8.3 Essential Services Allocation

Essential Services will be eligible to import vehicles as follows:

8.4 Schedule of Essential Services

ESSENTIAL SERVICE	VEHICLE ALLOCATION
Lord Howe Island Board	A fleet comprising of all vehicle types, being the minimum number of vehicles required to ensure the safe, effective and efficient delivery of the Board's charter, to a maximum of 12 road going vehicles, 2 of which must be Preferred Vehicles.
NSW Police	1 Vehicle
NSW MPA	1 Vehicle
Bureau of Meteorology	1 Vehicle
NSW Education	1 Vehicle
NSW Health	1 Vehicle – Ambulance
Doctor (GP)	1 Preferred Vehicle
NSW RFS	1 Vehicle – Fire Engine
NSW SES	1 Vehicle – Emergency Response Vehicle

8.5 Additional Vehicle Allocation for Hire Car Use

The Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014 requires a separate approval for the use of a motor vehicle as a hire vehicle.

Clause 86 of that Regulation states that:

"(1) A person must not, except in accordance with the approval of the Board, hire or offer for hire a motor vehicle to any other person for use on the Island.

(2) This clause applies whether or not the person from whom the motor vehicle is or is to be hired, or any employee or agent of that person, is to drive or ride the motor vehicle"

In addition to any other allocation:

- a) The Board may approve up to (8) additional vehicles on the island for use as hire vehicles. The Board reserves the right to revise this quota at any time subject to a demonstrated business need.
- b) The Board will review on an annual basis the fee charged for approval to use a car as a hire vehicle.
- c) Hire Car approvals are not transferable without the written approval of the Board.
- d) In addition to any fee applied for approval to hire a car on the island, the Board reserves the right to apply a transfer fee to any transfer of a hire car approval.
- e) Up to 4 vehicles may be allocated per applicant, to an island total of 8 hire cars.
- f) Vehicles are to be Preferred Vehicles unless otherwise agreed to by the Board.

9 Review of Applications

In determining any application to import or transfer a vehicle, where the application is proposed to be refused, or where the CEO believes that the application will prove controversial, the CEO will consult with, and document the majority view of the elected members regarding the application.

Where the CEO intends determining the application contrary to the majority view of the elected members, the CEO will document the reasons for doing so and provide a written briefing to the Chairperson, who will determine the matter in consultation with the Board.

10 Approval Periods – Importation and Use

10.1 Private Use Approval Period

Approval to import a vehicle for Private Use will be six (6) months. If the vehicle is not imported within that time, the approval to import will lapse and a new application must be made.

10.2 Commercial Approval Period

- a) Approval to import a vehicle for Commercial Use will be three (3) months. If the vehicle is not imported within that time, the approval to import will lapse and a new application must be made.
- b) Approval to use a commercial vehicle on the island will ~~be up to a maximum of five (5) years, depending on the demonstrated business need. At the end of the approval period, the owner of the vehicle must reapply to retain and use the vehicle on the island, based on a demonstrated business need. Note renewal fees apply~~ cease when the business ceases, as evidenced by termination of a business licence.
- c) A commercial vehicle cannot be used for private use where a person also has approval for a private vehicle (other than when the private use vehicle is a motor bike, motor scooter etc).

10.3 Hire Vehicle Approval Period

- a) Approval to import a vehicle under Hire Vehicle allocation will be six (6) months. If the vehicle is not imported within that time, the approval to import will lapse and a new application must be made.
- b) Approval to use a vehicle on the island will, unless otherwise varied at the discretion of the Board, be for five (5) years, subject to annual review. At the end of the approval period, the owner of the vehicle must reapply to retain and use the vehicle on the island, based on a demonstrated business need. Note renewal fees apply.

11 Approval Conditions

The Board may apply such conditions as it deems necessary to any approval to import and/or use a vehicle on the island. In particular, the Board will apply conditions to safeguard the public interest and to minimise the impacts of vehicle use on the natural, built, social and economic environment of the island.

[For any ~~if a~~ vehicle \(including a trailer, plant and equipment\) to be imported ~~is second hand~~, the a statutory declaration stating that the vehicle has been inspected and cleaned with a high pressure hose to ensure that no weeds, seeds, insects, spiders, etc. are transported to the island. Such a declaration is required to be submitted to the Board prior to the vehicle leaving the mainland.](#)

Approvals to import a vehicle for private use will be specific for the applicant and a dwelling. The approval will include details of the dwelling where the vehicles are allocated.

Where the circumstances of the owner of an approved private vehicle change resulting in a new place of residence (approved dwelling) on Lord Howe Island, the vehicle approval is terminated. The owner of the vehicle must reapply under the conditions of this policy. The vehicle owners' circumstances will be considered when assessing this new application and special consideration may be given.

Where the owner of a private use vehicle leaves the island the vehicle must be garaged at the approved dwelling and the approval to use the vehicle is suspended until the owner returns to the island. In circumstances where the vehicle is used by a family member who normally resides with the vehicle owner and does not have access to another private use vehicle, the family member may continue to use the vehicle during the period of owner absence.

[In the case of deceased estates, where a private use vehicle is attached to the dwelling of the deceased, the vehicle must remain garaged at the approved dwelling and its use suspended until the administration of the estate has been completed. Where the executor or a caretaker living on the estate does not have access to another private use vehicle, these persons may use the vehicle during the period of administration.](#)

In determining any development consent in its role as a Consent Authority under the *NSW Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, or application for a Business Licence under clause 49 of the Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014, the Board will consider: whether the development and/or activity will require the importation and use of vehicles additional to those provided for under the **Private Use Allocation** and the potential impact of the importation and use of the vehicle/s including whether it is in the public interest and whether the likely impacts of the vehicle, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts will be unacceptable for the island.

11.1 Breach of Approval

Failure to comply with the conditions of approval will be deemed a breach of the Board's approval and may result in that approval being withdrawn and the vehicle being removed from the island.

Where the Board believes a Breach of the approval has occurred, the [LHIB Board's](#) Administration will write to the vehicle owner advising them of the alleged breach and asking them to respond to the allegation and justify as to why their approval should not be revoked. Vehicle owners will have 14 calendar days to respond. Failure to respond within the prescribed timeframe will result in immediate revocation of approval.

Following termination of approval the [Board's](#)~~LHIB~~ Administration will write to the vehicle owner of

this revocation of approval instructing the vehicle owner to not use the vehicle and remove the vehicle from the island within 60 days.

Vehicle Owners may reapply to the Board for approval. Until approval has been granted the vehicle is not to be used.

12 Vehicle Replacement

Unless a case for exceptional circumstances can be established to the satisfaction of the Board, replacement of vehicles will be on a “one on – one off” basis, where the replacement vehicle has the same (+ 10% subject to the discretion of the Board) or smaller engine capacity and tare weight as the vehicle being replaced.

Where the applicant has another vehicle (commercial or private use) that is suitable for use, the applicant must demonstrate the need to replace the vehicle.

13 Vehicle Transfers

Vehicle approvals will not be transferable without the written approval of the Board. Prior to granting an approval, the [LHHB-Board](#) needs to be satisfied that there is a demonstrated need for the transfer. Failure to demonstrate that need will result in approval not being granted.

Applications to transfer will be made on the prescribed form and will be determined in accordance with this policy.

In addition to any fee applied for approval of a vehicle on the island, the Board reserves the right to apply a transfer fee to any transfer of any vehicle approval.

In the case of a private vehicle, the transfer fee will be the equivalent of the appropriate importation fee.

In the case of a commercial vehicle, including a private vehicle which is transferred as a commercial vehicle, the Board will require the transferor and the proposed transferee to provide a Statutory Declaration stating that the proposed price to be paid between those parties regarding the transfer of the vehicle is no greater than current market value of the vehicle, plus freight and wharfage costs. The Board will levy a transfer fee of no greater than 10% of that amount.

14 Delegations

The Chief Executive Officer of the Board is delegated to determine any application made under this policy, provided that the application complies with this policy.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Board is delegated to suspend or withdraw any approval given under this policy where it can be established to the satisfaction of that officer that a significant breach of the conditions of approval has occurred.

In determining any application to import or transfer a vehicle, where the application is proposed to be refused, or where the CEO believes that the application will prove controversial, the CEO will consult with, and document the majority view of the elected members regarding the application.

Where the CEO intends determining the application contrary to the majority view of the elected members, the CEO will document the reasons for doing so and provide a written briefing to the Chairperson, who will determine the matter in consultation with the Board.

15 Reporting and Monitoring

The Lord Howe Island Board will maintain a Vehicle Approvals Register, which will include:

- a) The names, addresses and number and type of vehicles of persons approved to import and use a vehicle;
- b) Category of Approval (Private, Commercial, Hire etc);
- c) Conditions of Approval;
- d) Approval Period;
- e) Types of Vehicles Held; and
- f) Registration Details of all Vehicles Held.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Board will provide to the Board at each meeting, a report on:

- a) Vehicle applications approved or rejected since the last meeting and a statement detailing the reasons for approval or rejection addressing the matters required to be considered in the Policy and any alternatives to the importation and use of the vehicle;
- b) Cumulative total of vehicles on the island at the time of the report.

16 Attachments

Information for Applicants
Application to Import a Vehicle
Application to Transfer a Vehicle

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD APPLICATION TO IMPORT A VEHICLE

Under Clauses 84 and 87 of the *Lord Howe Island Regulation 2014*

Approval to import and use a vehicle on the island will be subject to the provisions of the *Lord Howe Island Board Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy 2015* (the Policy). Please read this policy prior to completing this form. No entitlement to import or use a vehicle is provided for under this policy. All applications to import and use a vehicle will need to demonstrate a genuine need for the importation and use of a vehicle, and for the vehicle selected. The Board reserves the right to reject any application for any vehicle where it believes that a vehicle is not in the public interest and/or the likely impacts of the vehicle, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments, and social and economic impacts will be unacceptable for the island and/or where an applicant has failed to adequately justify the need for a proposed vehicle.

Please note that a non-refundable application fee of \$200.00 applies to the importation and transfer of a motor vehicle.

APPLICATION FEE

Total fees lodged: \$200.00 Receipt No.: Receiving Officer:

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name:

Address:

Is this vehicle application for (please circle):

Private Use Commercial Use Essential Service

NOTE:

- Private use eligibility is limited to one vehicle per dwelling.
- In general, the Board will only consider approval for a commercial vehicle for businesses which need to transport clients and guests and/or goods and equipment and then only when the business need cannot be serviced from an existing allocation within the island's fleet.
- Essential service entitlements are specified in Clause 8 of the Policy.

On what basis are you eligible to apply for the importation and use of a vehicle under the Lord Howe Island Board Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy 2015?

Please refer to Clause 7 of the *Vehicle Importation, Transfer and Use Policy*.

NOTE:

- For commercial use vehicles, a Business Licence is a prerequisite, and
- For commercial and private use vehicles, applicants residing as Tenants are required to supply a copy of their Tenancy Agreement with this application.

Please specify:

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Please state whether you considered alternatives to the vehicle selected, including an alternative form of transport:

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NOTE: Please attach an additional sheet if space is inadequate.

APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

I being the applicant, hereby declare that the information provided above is true and accurate and make application to import a vehicle in accordance with the above.

Signature: Date: