

Taxi and Luxury Hire Car Newsletter

Issue 66 – October 2012

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Review of Taxi Licence Release Arrangements

The Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the review of Taxi Licence Release Arrangements (The Review) has been revised taking into account the comments received as a result of the consultation process undertaken in late August/early September.

A copy of the final ToR is attached for your information. This ToR will now form the basis of the engagement of a consultant to undertake the review.

Consultation with industry on the draft ToR saw a relatively small number of concerns being raised. To a large extent the changes that have been made centre on the need to clarify or emphasise particular aspects, and by doing so, reduce the potential for misinterpretation or confusion.

On the basis of this feedback, the major changes made to the draft ToR relate to:

- A broader definition of the consultation required in Paragraph 1;
- Inserting a direction that the Consultant will specifically examine the Hobart taxi area for evidence of market failure arising from the increase in taxi licence numbers in recent years;
- Making less definite the linkage between increased operator revenues and driver earnings as a policy aim of the OOTL regime, in the section headed *1. Owner Operator Taxi Licences*;
- Deleting dot point 3 in the section headed *1. Owner Operator Taxi Licences* given that this was, in effect, a restatement of dot point 2;

- Minor typographical corrections in the section headed 2. *Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Licences*;
- Deleting the text “(i.e. the release of new licences – other than WATs – in metropolitan areas).” In paragraph 6 of page 2, in response to the potential for this to be misconstrued as meaning that the consultant was being directed to totally exclude the impact of WAT licences, as a subset of all licences, on driver income; and
- Amendments to the *Additional Issues to be Examined* section to include more detailed reference to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and reference to any potential negative consequences (e.g. congestion) resulting from increased taxi numbers.

The Department will now commence the process of engaging a consultant to undertake this Review. It is expected that this selection process will be completed by early November and that the Review itself, which will include a public consultation phase, will commence shortly thereafter.

Industry will be notified once the consultant has been selected and I would encourage you to make use of opportunities to share your views with the consultant as the Review progresses.

Wheelchair-accessible taxis

- Loading of wheelchair-reliant customers

WAT operators are reminded that the wheelchair restraints fitted to a vehicle after March 2009 must be set up so that the passenger sits facing to the front of the vehicle. Vehicles that were set up prior to 30 March 2009 may position the passenger to be either forward or rear facing.

It is a requirement of WATs set up prior to 30 March 2009 that the wheelchair-restraint assembly complies with Australian Standard AS2942 and those set up on or after 30 March 2009 comply with AS/NZ 10542.1 2009.

If a driver secures a wheelchair in sideways that would be a breach of regulation 58(2) of the *Taxi Industry Regulations 2008* relating to securing the wheelchair in accordance with the relevant Standard.

DIER offices – 10 Murray Street, Hobart

In recent times, an increasing number of taxi operators have been attending the reception at 10 Murray Street, Hobart unannounced or without an appointment to conduct transport-related business. This is increasingly impeding conduct of reception business.

Please note that Service Tasmania is the appropriate place to conduct standard, ordinary business, lodge forms and pay fees. All of the licensing notification forms, application forms and information sheets are also available on the Transport website at:

http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/operator_forms

and

http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/operator_information

At this site there are also links to a large number of related transport information.

Any operator who wishes to discuss extraordinary issues must call and make an appointment.

Previous Newsletters

These may be viewed on the DIER website, at the following link;

http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/publications/taxi_and_luxury_hire_car_newsletter2

This newsletter is also sent to all radio networks and taxi fleet managers, who will make copies available on request. Please make the Newsletter available to drivers.

NOTE: DIER issues this Newsletter to operators by email ONLY, as it is easier, cheaper and quicker to do so. If you change your email address, please advise Phil or Alan as under.

DIER Contacts



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Operators should note that queries on all general operational and housekeeping matters should be directed to Phil.

E-mail: Phil.harvey@dier.tas.gov.au

Vehicle Standards and vehicle technical matters;

6233 5214 or 6233 5314

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