

Taxi and Luxury Hire Car Newsletter

Issue 67 – December 2012

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Review of Taxi Licence Release Arrangements

Following the finalisation for the Terms of Reference for the Review of Taxi Licence Release Arrangements (The Review) the Department undertook a process to select and appoint an independent consultant to undertake the Review.

This process has now been completed, with KPMG being selected to undertake the consultancy. KPMG's team will draw on both local and interstate resources. The Tasmanian-based Project Director, Mr David Richardson, has extensive local knowledge and has undertaken previous taxi-related work for DIER.

KPMG has begun background research and consideration of the various issues contained in the Terms of Reference.

Due to the impending Christmas/New Year period the consultation phase of this project is scheduled to commence in mid January. This industry/community consultation will include regional forums which will allow face-to-face discussions as well as the ability to lodge written submissions.

Anyone with an interest in the taxi industry, and particularly those who made submissions on the draft terms of reference, are encouraged to make use of the various opportunities to share their views with KPMG as the Review progresses.

Further information will be provided to the industry via future issues of the Taxi and Luxury Hire Car Newsletter.

Taxi Fare Inquiry

On 31 August 2012 The Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (OTTER) received an official request from the Minister for Finance to undertake a taxi fare inquiry. The Regulator was requested to consider the method for setting fares, the indexation of fares

and the relative weighting of fare-related components.

The Regulator has engaged the services of the consultancy firm the Centre for International Economics (the CIE) to assist with the review. The CIE is currently preparing a draft report that will inform the Regulator in making its recommendations to Government.

In preparing its draft report the CIE, in conjunction with staff from the Office of the Regulator, undertook an initial limited consultation phase with identified taxi industry stakeholders and community groups. The purpose of this initial consultation phase was to seek industry participant views and input and to obtain operational and cost information on the Tasmanian taxi industry.

The Regulator intends releasing the CIE's draft report (together with an OTTER consultation paper) in February 2013 for public comment and submissions. Anyone with interest in the taxi industry, particularly in relation to the setting and review of fares, are encouraged to engage with this consultation process.

These documents will be available on the Regulator's website:

www.economicregulator.tas.gov.au.

The Regulator plans to release its final report to the Minister in late May 2013. Queries on the above should be directed to 6233 3573.

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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Vehicle Standards and vehicle technical matters;

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