

# Taxi Newsletter



Welcome to the December 2016 edition of the Taxi Newsletter.

## Cruise ship season 2016/17

The Hobart cruise ship season will be between 22 October 2016 and 15 June 2017 with 48 cruise ships scheduled to dock at the Port of Hobart. The Transport Commission has approved and issued an authorisation for 6 parking spots in Hunter Street (near the junction with Franklin Wharf) to be used by specifically authorised restricted hire vehicle (RHV) and luxury hire car (LHC) operators who have been issued with a permit from Destination Southern Tasmania to offer and accept walk-up bookings from cruise ship passengers on relevant days. No other operators are permitted to use this area. See Attachment I for a map of the approved parking spots. Standing for hire in any other place is not permitted unless the vehicle is a taxi and is standing on a taxi rank.

## Ride-sourcing

On Monday 7 November 2016, the Transport Commission granted registered operators of a ride-sourcing vehicle an exemption from the requirement to be accredited. The exemption applies until 1 January 2018. A vehicle must meet certain criteria to be a ride-sourcing vehicle. Drivers wishing to use their vehicles to provide ride-sourcing services need to satisfy a range of requirements which includes holding an Ancillary Certificate. Information is now on the Transport website at: <http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/passenger/ride-sourcing>

## Wheelchair accessible taxis

The Department has invited expressions of interest for a consultant to make recommendations about the best regulatory and funding arrangements to make sure that WAT services are safe, efficient and reliable across the state, and fares paid by wheelchair-reliant passengers are fair. The project will include targeted consultation with stakeholders, and we expect it to commence early in 2017.

## Owner-operator taxi licences

On 30 September 2016, all unsold Owner-Operator Taxi Licences (OOTL) that were left over from the 2015 Tender were withdrawn from sale. The Minister for Infrastructure declared on 21 September 2016 that there would be no additional OOTLs made available in a Tasmanian taxi area for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

New wheel-chair accessible taxi (WAT) licences and temporary taxi licences are available by making application to the Transport Commission. Existing OOTLs, WATs and perpetual taxi licences can still be transferred. Approval from the Transport Commission is required for the transfer of OOTLs and WAT licences.

## Accredited Operator Contact details

It is important that the Transport Commission or State Growth is able to contact you if necessary. If you don't keep your contact details up-to-date, you may not receive important information.

Accreditation Standard 1.3 requires that you inform the Transport Commission of any changes to your accreditation details including your address, telephone and email address and the type of passenger transport service you are operating. You need to go to Service Tasmania to change your address.

## Events you must tell the Transport Commission about

If you are an accredited operator or the responsible person for an accreditation, there are certain events that by law, you must tell the Commission about. This is covered in the Passenger Transport Operator Accreditation Manual under Standard 1.3 Maintaining Accreditation Details. If you are charged with a serious offence or the responsible person changes, you must notify the Commission within 14 days.

A serious offence is an offence prescribed in the *Passenger Transport Services Act 2011*. You will find a list in the Glossary of your Accreditation Manual.

If the responsible person changes, you can get an application to change the responsible person from our website at: [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees\\_forms/operator\\_forms](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/operator_forms) Lodge the form at Service Tasmania and pay the fee of \$76.50. When the accreditation details are updated, a new accreditation certificate will be sent to you.

## Perpetual Taxi Licences

If you own a Perpetual Taxi Licence and you have leased the licence, you are responsible for notifying the Transport Commission who is leasing the licence. Additionally, if the person leasing your licence changes, you must also notify the Commission. A form for notifying the Commission is available on the Transport website at:

[http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees\\_forms/operator\\_forms](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/operator_forms)

The form can be submitted to a Service Tasmania shop. A fee applies when advising of a lease commencement or change. If you don't tell the Commission who is leasing your licence, you may be held responsible for any offences committed under the licence.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme and the WAT trip subsidy

Letters were sent out by post and emailed to WAT operators about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the effect on the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) trip subsidy.

An interim payment is being provided to WAT operators to recognise that WAT operators are no longer receiving the trip subsidy for those NDIS participants who formerly held a TAS Taxi Smartcard. The first of these payments has already been made. So that State Growth can make any interim payment that is due to an operator, WAT operators were asked to provide some specific information to the Department. If you haven't provided the information you won't be able to be paid.

If you are a WAT operator and you didn't receive a letter, or you need to provide us with information so we can pay you, or if you have any questions about the interim payment, call the Regulations and Concessions team on 6166 3303.

## Ancillary Certificate renewals and the WWVP

To ensure all holders of Public Passenger Vehicle (PPV) Ancillary Certificates have the appropriate Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (RMV) will now conduct a WWVP status check as part of the Ancillary Certificate renewal process. The status of a WWVP can be verified using the Department of Justice website at: <https://www.forms.justice.tas.gov.au/RegistrationSearch.aspx>

While the RMV will confirm your WWVP registration as part of the normal renewal process, the onus is on all PPV Ancillary Certificate holders to maintain their own WWVP registration and to notify the RMV of any changes to their ongoing suitability and/or their WWVP status.

For further information about WWVP registration visit the Department of Justice ([http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working\\_with\\_children](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children)) or call 1300 135 513.

To check if a driver has a current ancillary certificate, go to: <http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/passenger/operators> (Scroll down to Ancillary Certificates and click on 'Current Ancillary Certificates for Public Passenger Vehicles'.) This page is updated fortnightly.

## Ancillary Certificate and Cabcharge

By law, you must have an Ancillary Certificate (Taxi) to drive a taxi. If your ancillary certificate expires, you won't be able to logon to your Cabcharge payment terminal. To renew your Ancillary Certificate you will need to go to Service Tasmania. If you have any questions about your Ancillary Certificate, you should call Service Tasmania on 1300 135 513.

## Fares and charges

All drivers must ensure that taxi meters are on the correct tariff for the time of day. This is covered in driver induction training and is a core element of taxi driving. It is an offence to operate on the incorrect tariff.

Section 62 of the *Taxi Industry Regulations 2008* requires that a notice of the relevant fares and charges must be displayed prominently in the taxi. Call the Regulations and Concessions team on 6166 3269 if you require 'fares and charges' stickers for your taxi.

## Contact Details for the Tasmanian Taxi Council

At the request of the Tasmanian Taxi Council, contact details of the office holders are provided for the information of industry members.



Tasmanian Taxi Council

If you wish to discuss the industry or the Council further please contact:

President Mr. Roger Burdon (South) 0418 125 768 or via email [roger.burdon@13cabs.com.au](mailto:roger.burdon@13cabs.com.au)

Secretary Mr. Tony Dilger (North) 0417 036 090 or via email [manager@taxicombined.com.au](mailto:manager@taxicombined.com.au)

## From the Regulations and Concessions Team

For operator accreditation or taxi licence enquiries contact Alan, Michelle or Tania:

Email: [operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

Phone: 6166 3269

Attachment I – Approved parking spots

