

Taxi Newsletter



Welcome to the April 2019 edition of the Taxi Newsletter.

Taxi Supplement

Your passengers with taxi smartcards who are participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) can keep using their smartcards after 30 June 2019. These passengers can continue to pay part of their taxi fare when they tap their Smartcard, up to a capped amount, until 31 December 2023 as follows:

	Wheelchair passengers	Non-wheelchair passengers
Year 1	60% of taxi fares up to \$30.00 per trip (capped at \$1,000.00 for Year 1)	50% of taxi fares up to \$25.00 per trip (capped at \$1,000.00 for Year 1)
Each other year until 31 December 2023	60% of taxi fares up to \$30.00 per trip (capped at \$350.00 for each Year)	50% of taxi fares up to \$25.00 per trip (capped at \$350.00 for each Year)

A taxi smartcard is not intended to give your passengers free taxi travel. Your passengers who use their taxi smartcard must pay the rest of their taxi fare. They cannot use their NDIS funding (including paying part of their taxi fare through the portal) for a trip if they are using their taxi smartcard. They must choose if they use their smartcard or their NDIS funding, they can't use both.

The Department of State Growth will be providing further advice on the subsidy cap for NDIS clients to the taxi industry as more information becomes available.

Taxi Fares

The Department of State Growth is reviewing taxi fares to ensure that they reflect industry costs and the need for the taxi industry to remain competitive. Since the last fare increase incurred in early 2014:

- Taxi operating expenses have increased slightly overall by 3.63% according to a model that the Department of State Growth keeps to assess costs over time. There has been little change to taxi equipment costs and motor vehicle registration and MAIB premium fees have reduced slightly. Current fuel prices are similar to prices at the time of the last review.

- The CPI has increased by 11.7 per cent. The CPI increase is significant for a range of reasons which do not necessarily directly relate to the operations of a taxi such as housing cost increases.

You are invited to respond to the following questions:

- (a) Do you support a fare increase?
- (b) If you support a fare increase, your views on the following:
 - should a fare increase be in line with industry costs increases (3.63%) or CPI increases (11.7%) or by some other rate of increase (please tell us what that rate of increase is); and
 - how should the increase be applied to the tariffs (how much on the flagfall, waiting time and kilometre rate for each tariff including the WAT tariffs)?
- (c) If you do not support a fare increase, why not.

Please feel free to include any other information with your feedback

Please send your feedback by email to Operator.Accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au by 18 April 2019.

Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Regulatory Review

The Government is considering the feedback received during consultation and a final framework is expected to be released in the first half of 2019. The Government is committed to introducing legislation for the on-demand passenger transport sector into Parliament in the spring session later this year.

If you have any questions about the Review, please email taxireview@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Owner-operator Taxi Licences (OOTL)

OOTLs are available for sale from the Transport Commission. The licences for sale are left over from the 2018 taxi licence tender. Licences available for all taxi areas except Hobart and Devonport. To be able to buy a licence you will need to meet the eligibility criteria. To obtain an application package to purchase an OOTL, email operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au.

Wheelchair-accessible taxi (WAT licences) are available for all taxi areas.

Annual administration fees

If you have not paid your annual administration fee for your taxi and luxury hire car (LHC) licences, you must do it now. The fee was due to be paid before 1 April 2019.

If you have not paid the administrative fee it means:

- your licence has now lapsed
- the licence plate for your lapsed licence may be seized by an authorised officer
- if the fee has still not been paid by 29 April 2019, the licence plate for the lapsed licence becomes void and will be cancelled.

If you lease a taxi licence, you need to contact the licence owner to ensure that the fee has been paid.

Taxi Zones (Ranks)

It is your responsibility as an accredited operator of a taxi service to ensure your drivers are aware of their duties when driving a taxi (r59 of the [Taxi Industry Regulations 2018](#)). This includes rules relating to taxi zones, your driver must not:

- refuse to accept a hiring while the taxi is in a taxi zone
- fail to stand their taxi in the foremost vacant space within that zone
- leave his or her taxi unattended in a taxi zone without reasonable grounds for doing so
- prevent another taxi from leaving a taxi zone
- tell a person that they must hire the foremost taxi in the taxi zone

To Operate a Taxi Licence

You cannot operate a taxi service unless:

- you hold passenger transport service operator accreditation and
- you own a taxi licence or are the lease of a perpetual taxi licence and you are the responsible operator of that taxi licence.

If you enter or terminate a lease, you must complete the notification form

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/operator_forms . The forms are to be lodged and if applicable, the fee paid at any Service Tasmania shop.

Perpetual taxi licence lease arrangement	Who must notify the Commission?	When notification must be made	Is there a fee?
Commencement of lease	The owner of the licence	No later than 14 days after the commencement of the lease	Yes
Termination of lease	The owner of the licence and the person who leased the licence	Within 7 days after the termination of the lease	No

Regulations and Concessions Unit

If you need help, you can email: operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au