

# Taxi Newsletter



December 2019

## Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Review

The Tasmanian Government has released a draft Bill to give effect to a new framework for changes to the on-demand passenger transport sector.

The framework takes into account the feedback received during the consultation period in late 2018.

While there was overwhelming support by the taxi industry for Option 2 in relation to the issue of new owner-operator tax licences (OOTLs), there were some concerns about reducing the taxi areas at year three. Because of this, the Government has amended Option 2 to include the following features

- suspend the issue of new owner-operator tax licences for five years
- make sure there are enough taxis in areas with no ride-sourcing or too few taxis and
- no change to the number of taxi areas.

The Government has also decided that the Economic Regulator will be responsible for determining the reserve price of new owner-operator tax licences. However, for years 1-5 the value can be no less than 90 per cent of the previous year.

Further information, including a copy of the draft Bill, is available on the State Growth website:

[www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/taxireview](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/taxireview)

You are invited to provide feedback on the draft Bill. Submissions must be received by 21 February 2020 and made in writing to [taxireview@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:taxireview@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) or mailed to:

Commissioner for Transport  
GPO Box 536  
Hobart TAS 7001

## Extension of ride-sourcing exemption

The current exemption which allows for the lawful operation of ride-sourcing in Tasmania will expire on 31 December 2019.

Due to delays in implementing a new framework for the on-demand passenger transport sector, the Transport Commission has approved an exemption notice for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021.

There will be no changes to how ride-sourcing operates in Tasmania.

The extension will extend the current arrangements for ride-sourcing, and ensure regulatory certainty for ride-sourcing while a final framework for the on-demand passenger transport sector is legislated.

Should the new legislation be in place prior to 31 December 2021, the exemption will be withdrawn at that earlier date.

## Release of unsold owner-operator taxi licences from 2019 tender

Owner Operator Tax Licences (OOTL) not sold in the 2019 tender process will be available for sale in each Tasmanian taxi area early in 2020.

The OOTLs are available for sale at the following non-negotiable reserve prices:

Taxi area	Number of OOTLs available	Reserve Price
Hobart	16	\$60,000
Launceston	5	\$35,000
Devonport	1	\$23,000
Burnie	1	\$23,000
Ulverstone	1	\$17,250
George Town	1	\$12,500
Perth	1	\$12,500
West Tamar	1	\$12,500
Meander Valley	1	\$12,500
Circular Head	1	\$11,250
Break O'Day	1	\$10,800
New Norfolk	1	\$10,800
Huon Valley	1	\$7,500

Taxi area	Number of OOTLs available	Reserve Price
Glamorgan/Spring Bay North	1	\$3,750
Kentish	1	\$3,750
Penguin	1	\$3,750
Tasman	1	\$3,750
Dorset	1	\$2,250
Glamorgan/Spring Bay South	1	\$1,875
Bruny Island	1	\$1,000
Central Highlands	1	\$1,000
Flinders Island	1	\$1,000
King Island	1	\$1,000
West Coast	1	\$1,000

To obtain an information pack and application form to purchase an OOTL for a specific taxi area, please send an email to [operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au). You will receive a response early in 2020.

## On-line checks

There are on-line tools to help accredited operators check the status of their vehicles' registration and the status of drivers' ancillary certificates at any time.

To check the status of:

- a vehicle registration go to - <https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/MRSWebInterface/public/regoLookup/registrationLookup.jsf>
- an ancillary certificate go to - [https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/passenger/operators/ancillary\\_certificates](https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/passenger/operators/ancillary_certificates) (the correct driver licence number and surname of the driver must be entered)

To meet the accreditation laws a taxi must be registered and the driver licensed. It is an offence to provide a passenger transport service when the vehicle is not registered or the driver is not appropriately licenced. As well, any insurances you hold may be invalid in an event of a crash.

## New on-line payment option for annual administration fee

In 2020 you can choose to pay your annual administration fee on-line.

Payment on-line will make it easier for the fee to be paid without the need to go to a Service Tasmania shop. You can continue to pay at Service Tasmania if you choose.

The Regulations Team will write to you in February 2020 about fees for the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. We will tell you how to access and use the on-line payment.

You will need to pay your fee on-line or at a Service Tasmania shop before 29 March 2020.

## Taxi Ranks (Taxi Zones)

A taxi can only stand or park on a taxi rank (taxi zone) when seeking passengers.

This ensures that taxis do not interfere with other traffic movement. This is always important but more so in busy areas such as Northgate Shopping Centre in Glenorchy and Salamanca Place in Hobart. It is important to only park or stand in a taxi rank to:

- ensure the safety of pedestrians
- ensure access of other vehicles to parking spaces (in particular those designated for people with disability) and
- allow access by police and other emergency vehicles to the area.

A taxi cannot stand or park in any other place unless the “not for hire” sign is displayed. This includes not standing or parking behind a taxi rank when the rank is full, or creating or joining an ad hoc taxi rank.

## National Police Certificates

The accredited operator, or if applicable the responsible person, must provide their National Police Certificate (NPC) to the Transport Commission before the date it is due (as shown in the conditions of accreditation).

An accredited operator, or if applicable the responsible person, must be a fit and proper person to hold that role. The NPC forms part of the information to determine whether the accredited operator or responsible person is a fit and proper person.

If the NPC is not provided before the due date, this is a breach of the condition of the accreditation and of accreditation laws. To avoid breaching a condition of the accreditation and accreditation laws, the operator, or if applicable the responsible person, will need to apply for the variation of the condition for additional time to submit the NPC. To apply for a variation of condition the operator will need to go to Service Tasmania, complete the Application to Vary Conditions of Accreditation form (a copy over page) and pay the fee of \$81.00.

## Regulations and Concessions Unit

If you need help you can email: [operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:operator.accreditation@stategrowth.tas.gov.au).