

# Taxi Newsletter



Welcome to the April 2018 edition of the Taxi Newsletter.

## Owner-Operator Taxi Licences (OOTLs)

On 25 January 2018, the Minister for Infrastructure issued a Ministerial Notice that allows for OOTLs to be released for tender in all taxi areas across the State, except for the Hobart taxi area. The Transport Commission will make these OOTLs available in accordance with the Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Act which requires a tender to be called prior to 30 September 2018.

The decision to lift the suspension outside of the Hobart taxi area was made in response to feedback from some operators who reported demand for additional services in particular areas.

New wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) licences continue to be available at any time 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 an existing OOTL or WAT.

## Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Regulatory Review

The Tasmanian Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Review team is keeping a close eye on changes that are occurring in taxi and hire vehicle industries in other jurisdictions. Knowing about the changes that are being implemented elsewhere and the impacts of changes is useful information as the Tasmanian framework is reviewed. While the experiences of other jurisdictions are taken into account, the Review is guided primarily by agreed objectives related to safety, efficiency, accessibility, and appropriate regulation which were the subject of earlier consultation.

The Review is also looking at impacts on the local environment since ride-sourcing started under interim arrangements in Tasmania in December 2016.

The Review has also undertaken market research to build a picture of the consumer perspective on taxis and ride-sourcing.

It is important that you are aware that recently Uber has announced its intention to expand to the north and north-west of the State. Another ride sourcing operator called Shebah has started offering services and a third ridesourcing operator called Hi Oscar has also announced its intention to enter the local market.

If you have any insights about the taxi and hire vehicle industry in Tasmania or if you have any views you'd like to share about changes that are occurring in other jurisdictions, please contact the Review team at [taxireview@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:taxireview@stategrowth.tas.gov.au). We anticipate that we will be consulting the taxi industry on proposed changes in the near future.

If you are interested in other jurisdictions' responses to ride sourcing, some useful links are included below:

Victoria: [https://transport.vic.gov.au/ways-to-travel/taxis-hire-car-and-ridesharing/industry-reforms/#utm\\_source=transport-vic-gov-au&utm\\_medium=vanity-url-301sredirect&utm\\_content=ride-share&utm\\_campaign=transport](https://transport.vic.gov.au/ways-to-travel/taxis-hire-car-and-ridesharing/industry-reforms/#utm_source=transport-vic-gov-au&utm_medium=vanity-url-301sredirect&utm_content=ride-share&utm_campaign=transport)

New South Wales: <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/point-to-point-transport>

Queensland: <https://personalisedtransport.tmr.qld.gov.au/>

Western Australia: <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/On-demandTransport/on-demand-transport-reform.asp>

South Australia: <https://dpti.sa.gov.au/TaxiHireCarReview>

ACT <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/regreform/2015-taxi-industry-innovation-reforms>

Northern Territory: <https://transport.nt.gov.au/transport/transport-strategies-and-plans/commercial-passenger-vehicle-reforms/ridesharing/new-regulatory-mode/>

## Changes to the Tasmanian Transport Inspectorate from July 2018

From July 2018, there will be some changes to the Tasmanian Transport Inspectorate. However there is very little impact for the taxi industry. The taxi industry will continue to have compliance and enforcement services provided by:

- Department of State Growth employed Transport Inspectors, who will be known as 'Transport Safety and Investigation Officers', and who will undertake on-road enforcement activities; and
- The Passenger Transport Branch, which will continue to undertake desk-top compliance assessments and activities.

These activities include:

- Ensuring conformance with the Accreditation Standards and Accreditation regulatory framework
- Licensing, licence plates and fees (taxi, restricted hire vehicles, luxury hire vehicles, unlicensed activity)
- Taxi operations (including areas and fares)
- Taxi vehicles and equipment (including tariff lights, cameras and meters)
- On-road enforcement of accreditation and licensing offences
- On-road enforcement of PPV driver licensing, ancillary certificate and roadworthiness checks.

There are some important changes that will affect heavy vehicles and buses.

### What is changing?

At present, heavy vehicle compliance and enforcement services are provided by Transport Inspectors from the Tasmanian Department of State Growth based in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart. State Growth delivers these services on behalf of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), Australia's independent regulator for all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass.

From the second half of 2018, heavy vehicle compliance and enforcement will no longer be provided by State Growth Transport Inspectors, but directly by the NHVR. NHVR safety and compliance officers will have authority to issue infringements for state-based offences as well as those under the Heavy Vehicle National Law. Once the transition takes place, NHVR officers will be easily recognisable by their uniforms.

### When will this happen?

Transition to the NHVR is expected to be completed by July 2018.

### What services will transition to the NHVR?

- On-road compliance for heavy vehicles, including mass, dimension, vehicle standards, load restraints, route compliance and driver fatigue.

- Investigations and prosecutions.

#### What services won't transition to the NHVR?

- Light vehicle crash inspections for the Coroner.
- Escorting Over-Size and Over-Mass vehicles.
- Written-off Vehicle Register (WOVR): light vehicle identity inspections.
- Passenger transport (bus, taxi and other small passenger vehicle) compliance activities.

#### Why is this change happening for heavy vehicle compliance and enforcement?

All Australian states and territories (except Western Australia and the Northern Territory) have adopted one rule book for heavy vehicles – the All Australian. The long-term goal is also to have one body, the NHVR, deliver consistent heavy vehicle compliance and enforcement across state boundaries.

Tasmania will be the second Australian state, after South Australia, to deliver this part of the national heavy vehicle reforms. As the national regulator, the NHVR will provide nationally-consistent training, enforcement methods and resources, and undertake investigations, including more complex Chain of Responsibility investigations.

#### Is there anything I need to do?

No. The taxi industry in Tasmania should notice very little change.

#### More information

You can find general information about the NHVR's heavy vehicle compliance and enforcement activity at: [www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/on-road-compliance-and-enforcement](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/on-road-compliance-and-enforcement).

## Replacement Licence Number Plates

If a licence number plate is lost or damaged, you will need to apply to the Transport Commission for a replacement licence number plate. An application form is available on State Growth's website at:

[http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees\\_forms/operator\\_forms](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/operator_forms). The application must be lodged at a Service Tasmania shop and a fee applies.

It is important that only one licence plate is issued for each taxi licence. To prevent more than one taxi service being provided under one licence, an application for a replacement licence must be carefully assessed. For this reason, it takes time between submitting an application for a lost or damaged licence plate and a decision being made to replace it. Before another licence plate is issued, the facts around the loss or damage must be carefully examined. As part of this examination process, we may ask for further information.

We understand that you will want another taxi licence plate issued as soon as possible. We recognise that you can't legally use a taxi unless you have a licence number plate affixed to it. However, it is important that we ensure that a licence plate has been sufficiently destroyed so that it will not be able to be used again.

## Unauthorised Operation of Taxi Services

Every Operator who provides a taxi service must do so either as a lease of a perpetual taxi licence or the holder a taxi licence of any type. A taxi service can only be carried out under the authority of a taxi licence. That means an operator cannot use a vehicle that is a taxi, to undertake a taxi service when they do not lease or own a taxi licence. If they do so, they are committing an offence.

Owner-operator and wheelchair accessible taxi licences must be operated by the holder of the licence and cannot be leased.

There are rules around leasing a perpetual taxi licence:

- both the owner and lessee of a perpetual taxi licence must notify the Commission of the termination of a lease within 7 days after the lease terminates.

- if you own a perpetual taxi licence, you must notify the Transport Commission of the commencement of a lease no later than 14 days after the commencement of the lease.

The forms for notifying the Commission can be found at the Department of State Growth's website at: [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees\\_forms/operator\\_forms](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/operator_forms). They must be lodged at any Service Tasmania shop along with payment of a fee.

## Requirement to Display Accreditation Certificate

Your accreditation certificate must be stored with your business documentation associated with your taxi service.

A copy of your accreditation certificate must be prominently displayed in all vehicles used under your accreditation. It is important that it is displayed as it shows members of the public that your vehicles are associated with a service which has had its systems audited to ensure that they are in place for a safe service. It is also a means for vehicles operating under your service to be identified.

As displaying the certificate is so important, it is an offence for failing to display it on a prominent place on the vehicle.

## New Forms

Forms relating to accreditation and taxi licences are being updated. The new forms will soon be available on State Growth's website at [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees\\_forms/operator\\_forms](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/operator_forms). We encourage you to start using the new forms as soon as they are available.

## Regulations and Concessions Unit

For operator accreditation or taxi licence enquiries:

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

Phone: (03) 6166 3269

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## Tasmanian Taxi Council



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)