

Darwin Commercial Passenger Vehicles Forum

21 April 2016

Minutes

1. Meeting Attendance

Present

- Ron Fleming Industry Representative – Private Hire Car and Limousine
- Shirley Ansell Industry Representative – Taxi
- David Hannon Industry Representative – Motor Omnibus
- Brian Thompson Industry Representative – Motor Omnibus
- Drosso Lelekis City of Darwin
- Sarah Andrews Australian Hotels Association
- Greg Turner Department of Transport (Acting Chair)
- Bernie Ingram Department of Transport
- Melissa Prosser Department of Transport (Secretariat)

Apologies

- Mark Davis Industry Representative – Motor Omnibus
- Melina Pachos Industry Representative – Taxi
- Bill Piantoni Industry Representative – Minibus
- Trevor Cox Tourism Top End
- Peter Copley City of Darwin

2. General Business

2.1 Confirm Minutes from Previous Meeting

Greg Turner confirmed there were no objections to him chairing the meeting in the absence of an industry chair. He called for nominations for a new forum chair to replace Rebecca Goodwin who recently stepped down from the role and discontinued her membership with the forum. The call for nominations was a follow on from previous meetings in which a replacement was sought.

Greg expressed how it was important for an industry representative to hold the role of chairperson. Greg requested names to be put up, suggesting asking Bill Piantoni and Mark Davis. Ron offered himself as chair if no other suitable representative could be sourced.

Greg advised the Department of Transport will continue to provide the secretariat functions for the group.

It was also stated that the Commercial Passenger Vehicle (CPV) Industry Review highlighted the Forum as an important link with maintaining communications across the industry sectors and government, had a primary role in the Government decision making process and established a clear forum for issues to be raised and discussed. As such, it is anticipated that Forum meetings will be scheduled at quarterly intervals with ad hoc meetings as and when required.

Action: Greg Turner to approach forum members to seek their interest in being nominated to the forum chair position.

2.2 Authorised Inspectors (AI) – Inspection of Own Vehicles

Previous action item – Greg provided clarification that Authorised Inspectors could not inspect any vehicle which is owned or likely to become owned by themselves or their employer e.g. the owner / operator of the Authorised Inspection Station (AIS).

2.3 Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)

Greg advised that there are now two RTOs in Darwin, being Eagle Training and IS Australia who can provide local area knowledge training for taxi drivers.

2.4 CPV Board

Bernie advised of the removal of the CPV Board as there will be more emphasis on Forums to address the operational issues which arise between agency and industry. Bernie reiterated the need for forum representatives to engage with their relevant industry members on issues and outcomes of the forums.

2.5 Local Area Knowledge Training

DoT informed the group about information regarding the Tourism Top End event – Welcome to the Dry. Trevor Cox extended the invitation, seeking numbers of attendees. This event would provide drivers with further local area knowledge of Darwin. It is held at SkyCity on Friday 6 May 2016, from 3 pm until 6 pm. Over 100 tourism businesses will gather to exchange information regarding tourism experiences across Darwin.

Sarah (AHA) offered to assist in providing current information on hotels etc as she believes the information provided during driver training may be out of date.

Action: Sarah Andrews to provide up-to-date information that can be provided to RTOs for future training materials.

There was further discussion on the potential issue of drivers having difficulties with conducting general conversation with passengers on local points of interest. It was suggested that Tourism Top End (TTE) may assist with driver knowledge. Sarah suggested drivers can utilise information on YouTube and the TTE website. It was recognised that Police and Transport Inspectors conduct presentations to new drivers during industry training in Alice Springs.

Action: Greg Turner to follow up and report on progress with driver knowledge. Transport Inspectors are currently attending driver training sessions with Eagle Training.

2.6 City of Darwin Update

Drosso advised in February 2016 the City of Darwin (CoD) approved the proposed revisions to parking in the CBD, including disabled parking and taxi ranks. CoD made the decision to reduce the maximum time limits in the centre of the city, with longer parking times being made available in surrounding areas.

Fifteen minute parking limits in front of banks will be implemented by 1 July 2016. The taxi rank in front of the cinema and across from Shenanigan's will be relocated to three locations along Mitchell Street, with the main rank being located on Peel Street near to the Mitchell Street corner. Both CoD and DoT recognise the need for updated lighting and CCTV infrastructure as

part of the move. Information will be extended to the community regarding changes through an advertising and marketing campaign.

Bernie raised the issue of taxi totem poles for the new ranks.

Action: Bernie Ingram to liaise with the City of Darwin on installation of taxi and minibus rank totems.

Council has also approved the installation of dedicated parking areas for tourist vehicles, with a permit required. There will be no time limit on cruise ship days for permitted vehicles. Council will also install new line marking for 15 minute free parking zones around the CBD.

Further consideration is required on the use of parking options by buses used to convey US military personnel and Inpex workers.

2.7 Major Events

Greg invited all attendees to discuss upcoming events and potential shortfalls in provisions of transport in order for industry and government to plan for meeting needs. DoT reiterated that it's the responsibility of all forum members to communicate and work together to address transport needs. The group agreed that all events seeking Liquor Licensing approval should have to submit a transport plan to cater for the disbursement of crowds after the event.

Action: Greg Turner to contact the Liquor Commission regarding upcoming events for distribution to members and to discuss the possibility of requiring transport plans during the application process.

2.8 Issues with Centrelink Basics Cards

The issue of some transport sectors and scheme members misusing the Basics Card scheme was raised. DoT advised that Centrelink has conducted an investigation into Basics Card misuse and have found anomalies in claims. As reported in the NT News, Centrelink has requested Darwin Radio Taxis provide reasons why their merchant agreement should not be terminated due to the actions of some drivers operating under the network.

2.9 Prepaid Taxi Fares

DoT informed the group of the review outcome to introduce prepaid taxi fares at certain times to combat fare evasion. The prepaid taxi fares would exclude journeys from the airport and for members of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

DoT also informed the group that the reduction of CPV categories from nine to five requires changes to legislation which is expected to take at least 18 months.

3. Action List

Agenda Number	Action Item	Action Officer
2.1	Approach forum members to seek their interest in being nominated to the forum chair position.	Greg Turner
2.5	Provide up-to-date information that can be provided to RTOs for future training materials.	Sarah Andrews

Agenda Number	Action Item	Action Officer
2.5	Follow up and report on progress with driver knowledge. Transport Inspectors are currently attending driver training sessions with Eagle Training.	Greg Turner
2.6	Liaise with the City of Darwin on installation of taxi and minibus rank totems.	Bernie Ingram
2.7	Contact the Liquor Commission regarding upcoming events for distribution to members and to discuss the possibility of requiring transport plans during the application process.	Greg Turner

4. Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for late July or early August 2016.