

MINUTES

Darwin Commercial Passenger Vehicles Forum

Date: Thursday 7 February 2013
Time: 2:30 pm to 4 pm
Venue: 2nd Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin

1.1 Present/Apologies

Present:	Rebecca Goodwin	Darwin Airport Shuttle (Chair)
	Aaron Blasch	Motor Omnibus (Route Service) Industry Rep
	Shirley Ansell	Taxi Industry Representative
	John Hart	Minibus industry Representative
	Ron Fleming	Private Hire Car and Limousine Industry Rep
	Drosso Lelekis	City of Darwin (CoD)
	Bernie Ingram	Department of Transport
	Greg Turner	Department of Transport
	Bridget McCue	Department of Transport
Apologies:	Melina Pachos	City Radio Taxis (no advice received)
	Amy Corcoran	Australian Hotels Association NT
	Trevor Cox	Tourism Top End

2 General Business

2.1 Confirm Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record.

2.2 CPV Community Educational Project

Initial discussions were held on whether this project should be placed on hold as it was aimed at the Christmas peak period. After further discussion, it was decided to continue with the project as the dry season is nearly here. The project is to educate the travelling public on what transport options are available to them. This is to be run by industry representatives.

ACTION: *Industry representatives to work together on how they can educate the public on what transport options are available to them.*

2.3 Cavenagh Street Upgrade and Bus Rerouting

Mr Drosso Lelekis (City of Darwin) advised the Cavenagh Street upgrade was completed in December 2012. The public transport bus stop relocation to Smith Street stayed in place longer than anticipated so the City of Darwin were able to compare and assess location options. At this stage, buses will be returning to Cavenagh Street in early March 2013. The taxi rank location is being considered further and an update will be provided when a decision has been made by Council.

ACTION: *City of Darwin Representative to provide an update to the meeting on the Cavenagh Street upgrade, bus rerouting and taxi ranks.*

ACTION: *Bernie Ingram (Department of Transport) to liaise with the NT Taxi Council to provide its preference of the taxi bay location.*

2.4 Taxi In-Service Maintenance Standards

Greg Turner (Department of Transport) advised he was waiting on comments for the Taxi In-Service Maintenance Standards before progressing further. Consultation will be extended until March 2013. Further feedback is being sought before findings can be released.

ACTION: *Greg Turner (Department of Transport) to extend the consultation phase to March 2013 for the Taxi In-Service Maintenance Standards and provide an update at the next meeting.*

2.5 Security Cameras in Private Hire Cars

Ron Fleming (Private Hire Car Industry Representative) advised the meeting he had spoken to most of the operators with regard to security cameras in private hire cars. Initial feedback suggests operators have no major concerns with the proposition, however question if it will be mandatory; who will pay for the cameras; and if their vehicles will need to be labelled to inform the public that they have cameras in the car. This information has been taken on board by the Department of Transport.

2.6 Investigate the opening of the Truck Bay at MVR

Greg Turner (Department of Transport) reported back regarding the option of using the truck bay at MVR Goyder Road for motor omnibuses. Advice provided to Mr Turner was that it is feasible provided operators use a commonsense approach.

ACTION: *John Hart (Minibus Representative) to advise industry of the use of the truck bay at MVR for motor omnibuses.*

2.7 Cavenagh Street Bus Stop Trees

Aaron Blasch (Motor Omnibus [Route Service] Industry Representative) raised concerns that the trees on the Cavenagh Street bus stop are inconveniencing passengers, damaging bus mirrors and also making it difficult for passengers with special needs to enter buses. Drosso Lelekis (City of Darwin) advised that it is the City of Darwin's preference for the trees to stay and a report to Council will need to be prepared to have removing the trees considered formally.

ACTION: *Aaron Blasch (in consultation with the Department of Transport) to prepare a submission for Council's consideration requesting the removal of the trees.*

2.8 Seatbelt and Child Restraint Exemptions to the Australian Road Rules

Bernie Ingram (Department of Transport) provided an update of new child restraint requirements that came into effect 1 February 2013. Ms Ingram advised the Department of Transport has provided an exemption for all commercial passenger vehicle (CPV) drivers (as defined under the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act*). The exemption is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) if there is an approved child restraint available in a vehicle it must be used in accordance with rule 266 (2), 266 (2A) and 266 (2B) of the Australian Road Rules; and
- (b) if a vehicle has 2 or more rows of seats, a passenger who is under 4 years old must not travel in the front row of seats; and
- (c) if a vehicle has 2 or more rows of seats a passenger who is 4 years old or older, but is less than 7 years old, must not travel in the front row of seats unless all of

the other seats in the row or rows behind the front row are occupied by passengers who are also under 7 year old.

2.9 Other Business

Ron Fleming (Private Hire Car Industry Representative) has requested how to apply for an exemption for training of limousine drivers. Ms Ingram advised that a written submission is to be provided to her at the Department of Transport for consideration.

ACTION: *Ron Fleming (Private Hire Car Industry Representative) to prepare a letter to Ms Ingram for consideration of an exemption to the training requirements for a limousine driver.*

3. Action List

Please refer to Attachment A.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, 16 May 2013.

Agenda No	Action	Action Officer
2.2	Industry representatives to work together on how they can educate the public on what transport options are available to them.	All Industry Representatives
2.3	Provide an update to the meeting on the Cavenagh Street upgrade, bus rerouting and taxi ranks.	Drosso Lelekis
2.3	Liaise with the NT Taxi Council to provide its preference of the taxi bay location.	Bernie Ingram
2.4	Extend the consultation phase to March 2013 for the Taxi In-Services Maintenance Standards and provide an update at the next meeting.	Greg Turner
2.6	Advise industry of the use of the truck bay at MVR for motor omnibuses.	John Hart
2.7	Prepare a submission for Council's consideration requesting the removal of the trees.	Aaron Blasch
2.9	Prepare a letter to Mrs Ingram for consideration of an exemption to the training requirements for a limousine driver.	Ron Fleming