

MINUTES

Darwin Commercial Passenger Vehicles Forum

Date: Thursday, 11 June 2015

Time: 2:30 pm to 4 pm

Venue: Conference Room, Level 2, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin

1.1 Present/Apologies

Present:	Keith Morgan	Route Service Industry Rep (Buslink)
	Ron Fleming	Private Hire Car and Limousine Industry Rep
	Trevor Cox	Tourism Top End
	Shirley Ansell	Taxi Industry Rep (Darwin Radio Taxis)
	Greg Turner	Department of Transport (DoT)
	Abby Bowen	Department of Transport (DoT)
	Sarah Andrews	Australian Hotels Association NT
	Bill Piantoni	Minibus Industry Rep (Metro Minibus)
	Mark Davis	Route Service Industry Rep (Territory Transit)
	Chris Millard	Route Service Industry Rep (Territory Transit)
Apologies:	Rebecca Goodwin	Motor Omnibus Industry Rep (Chair)
	Melina Pachos	Taxi industry Rep (City Radio Taxis)
	Drosso Lelekis	City of Darwin (CoD) Representative

2 General Business

2.1 Confirm Minutes from previous meeting

Calls were made for any industry representative to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair as Rebecca Goodwin was a late apology. There were no objections to Greg Turner chairing the meeting.

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

2.2 Industry Representatives

New members were welcomed to the forum. The new members are from Metro Minibus and Territory Transit and represent the minibus and route service bus sectors respectively. Introductions by all members present were made.

There was also discussion on the importance of having industry chair the meetings and while DoT was accommodating when the chair was unavailable at short notice, it advised the group that the agendas of the forum should be driven by industry and therefore chaired by industry. Forum members recognised the excellent work and commitment the current chair has provide to the forum, however it was agreed that there needs to be continuity of the forums through having stability in the chair role. Some members noted that the current chair has legitimate reasons for being unavailable at times, but recognised the on-going importance of the chair role of the chair.

Options for a permanent proxy (stand-in) chair were discussed, however the group first wished to clarify the intentions and future commitment of the current chair prior to investigating other options.

ACTION: DoT to write to Rebecca Goodwin regarding her intentions regarding her future role as Chair.

2.3 Cosmetic Inspections

Greg advised the group about the proposed upcoming changes to annual CPV cosmetic inspections. Annual CPV inspections will soon become a roadworthy inspection only i.e. DoT to remove the requirement for CPVs to have the cosmetic component included in the annual inspection. This will free up operators to have their CPVs inspected every 12 months at any Authorised Inspector (AI) approved to inspect that vehicle class.

The cosmetics standards for each CPV category will remain and will be monitored and enforced on-road by DoT inspectors. Greg confirmed the level of standards will not change. The group was also informed that it was the responsibility of the operator to ensure necessary taximeter and CCTV systems were inspected at intervals no greater than 12 months and that evidence of this needed to be provided to the CPV Compliance Unit. Where there was no evidence the systems had been certified within the last 12 months, the corresponding vehicle would be put off the road until evidence was produced.

ACTION: *Details to be provided to AHA NT on how the public can send in feedback.*

ACTION: *Confirmation required on whether AIS operators can have their own vehicles inspected by their employees.*

2.4 MVR Inspection Booking System

A quick discussion was held about the new MVR booking system for inspections. Industry provided some positive feedback so far with quicker inspection times. Discussion was had about operators needing to plan for inspections and not leave it to the last week. DoT advised that the booking were usually available about three days in advance. Several industry representatives advised that some operators are booking a follow up inspection in case they are failed and then cancelling that booking if they passed.

2.5 CPV Review Update

DoT advised that the Department was meeting with representatives from the consultant firm KPMG in which it was anticipated that the firm would deliver options on the CPV review to the DoT in about three weeks. DoT would then finalise the report for government for a final decision.

ACTION: *Seek advice if the CPV review taxi options can be provided to the Forum before the Minister's final decision is made.*

Update: *The options discussed relate to the taxi industry and are subject to Cabinet-in-Confidence requirements. The Department is not in a position to provide information to the CPV Forum at this time but they will be further discussed at the CPV Taxi Category Working Group prior to being formally submitted.*

2.6 Rural Taxi Service

AHA advised that rural AHANT members are concerned about how the review will affect public transport in the rural areas. Greg confirmed that he did not have that information however would advise the CPV reform team of the concern and confirm it had been included in the reform.

AHA stated that people were generally happy with transport at the moment, with Metro Minibus servicing the areas and many hoteliers arranging courtesy bus services. Issues with servicing rural areas were discussed with distance, cost and safety of drivers being main concerns. Bill advised that passengers were expecting cheap fares and abusing drivers about the cost and having to pay up-front.

ACTION: *Confirm if rural transport services have been considered as part of the CPV review.*

Update: *Service quality, standards and availability are some of the driving factors in the review of the CPV industry. The final recommendations that will be presented to Government for consideration will move the industry into a more customer focused transport service which should address these concerns.*

2.7 Proposed Taxi Driver Tourism Product Training

AHA proposed that all new taxi/CPV drivers should undertake tourism product training as part of their interim CPV driver training. Sarah will contact IS Australia about this proposal. Tourism Top End to assist with information.

ACTION: *Contact IS Australia regarding taxi driver tourism product training.*

2.8 Secure Taxi Rank CBD

Sarah and Shirley believe there has been no decision made as yet on the Peel/Mitchell Street rank. As no Council representatives were present this could not be confirmed.

ACTION: *Contact City of Darwin to check progress on Peel/Mitchell taxi rank.*

2.9 Other Business

A quick discussion was held about Uber. It was confirmed that Uber is not currently operating in Darwin, however it is fast becoming very successful down south. There has been no further information received from Government at this stage about Uber in Darwin.

Members of the motor omnibus category would like an update on the concrete island located near Darwin Interchange as its causing issues for bus drivers turning. They advised that Ian George has been most helpful so they are happy to continue liaising with him.

Members of the motor omnibus category advised there was going to be up to 5,000 marines coming into town within the next 4-6 weeks. There will be an influx of buses transferring personnel to and from Fort Hill wharf to various military establishments.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for September 2015.

Agenda No	Action	Action Officer
2.2	DoT to write to Rebecca Goodwin regarding her intentions regarding her future role as Chair.	Greg Turner
2.3	Details to be provided to AHA NT on how the public can send in feedback.	Abby Bowen
2.3	Confirmation required on whether AIS operators can have their own vehicles inspected by their employees.	Greg Turner
2.5	Seek advice if the CPV review taxi options can be provided to the Forum before the Minister's final decision is made.	Greg Turner
2.6	Confirm if rural transport services have been considered as part of the CPV review.	Greg Turner
2.7	Contact IS Australia regarding taxi driver tourism product training.	Sarah Andrews
2.8	Contact City of Darwin to check progress on Peel/Mitchell taxi rank.	Greg Turner