

Taxi Regulatory Review Project

Terms of Reference

Overall objective:

To review existing government regulation of the taxi industry to ensure that the vision and objectives as indicated in the TIB strategic plan can be met. In particular the vision is for a *"sustainable, innovative, personal transport option that meets the expectations of the community."* The review will also take into consideration the following principles as indicated in the strategic plan: *"Reliable accessible and timely service for all passengers; contemporary pricing and policy framework; and a sustainable future for the taxi industry"*. In particular the study will focus on a review of the regulatory framework and policies for taxis to *enhance competition and improve the capacity of operators to innovate and meet market demand.*

Focus:

The review will be strategic in nature focusing on key issues which impact on the taxi industry. The review will take into consideration the international best practices in taxi regulation but will be cognisant of the conditions and socio economic considerations which are relevant to the Perth metropolitan area.

Scope of Review:

The following issues will be considered as part of the review:

1. Overall regulatory framework:
 - Should taxis be regulated? Is the current regulatory framework appropriate in achieving the vision and principles stated above? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the current regulatory framework? Is there a sufficient level of competition in the taxi industry? How does the Perth taxi regulation compare with international best practices in cities which are similar to Perth in size, geography and socio economic conditions?
2. Plates:
 - What are the impacts of "plates" on the industry? What are the advantages and disadvantages? Is there an alternative more appropriate licensing arrangement? If plates are appropriate who should own them? Should they be tradeable?
3. Supply limits:
 - Is limiting the number of taxis appropriate? Is there a different more effective model of ensuring demand is met? Are there regulatory regimes which allow for a variety of public taxi options?
4. TDS operations:
 - Are the current operations and responsibilities of TDS' appropriate? Should TDS' have the ability to direct taxis? Is there sufficient competition in the TDS market?
5. Fares:
 - Should fares be regulated? How are fares adjusted?
6. Training:
 - Is the current level of training required for taxi drivers appropriate? Who is delivering the training and who is paying for it?
7. MPT's:
 - What are international best practices in providing taxi services for disable customers?

Review Stages

The review will be undertaken in the following stages:

- **Stage 1**
Scope and team finalisation, project initiation. The scope will be finalised and agreed upon by the TIB. A project plan with timelines will be finalised together with team members and responsibilities.
 - **Stage 2**
Consultation with the TIB Advisory committee to identify any particular regulatory issues they wish to include in the review.
 - **Stage 3**
A literature review will be conducted focusing on international best practises in taxi regulation with specific reference to the issues identified in the scope. The literature review may be outsourced depending on the resource availability.
 - **Stage 4**
Status quo analysis. Brief synopsis of current situation focusing on the issues listed under the study scope.
 - **Stage 5**
A review of alternative National and International regulatory structures and the demographic and cultural environments in which they exists. This will include visits to four relevant and comparable jurisdictions with regulatory regimes different to what is currently in place in Perth. The international visits will focus on cities which are similar to Perth taking into consideration population density, car ownership, geography, taxi availability, cultural alignment, socio economic environment.
 - **Stage 6**
Development of a preferred regulatory framework for the taxi industry which meets the requirements for achieving the vision and principles. This will be based on the literature review and information gained from the international visits.
- Stage 7**
Development of a transition plan to move from the current regulatory framework to the proposed new framework.
- **Stage 8**
Report writing. A comprehensive report will be provided to the TIB for consideration and deliberation.