



Delia Lawrie

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

5 December 2007

NEW AGREEMENT FOR TAXI LICENCE FEES

Today Transport Minister Delia Lawrie met with taxi drivers to discuss a constructive working relationship to tackle improvements to the industry.

Ms Lawrie said she had listened to the feedback she had received from members of the taxi industry and will phase in a 15% taxi licence fee increase over three years.

“The 15% taxi licence fee increase will apply to all taxi licences and will be introduced in 5% increments over three years,” said Ms Lawrie.

“A 1.8% tariff increase will start shortly to ensure the licence fee increase does not reduce the incomes of taxi drivers and owners.

“Darwin standard taxi operators will pay an \$800 annual fee increase for the next three years that will bring their total annual licence fee to \$18 400 in 2010. MPT taxi licence operators will pay a \$400 annual fee increase for the next three years.

“This is the first taxi licence fee increase since 1999 and the Territory is still one of the cheapest places in Australia to run a taxi business.

“Since 1999 CPI has not been factored into taxi licence fees – if it had been, Darwin standard taxi licence fees would be about \$20 000 today,” Ms Lawrie said.

The new \$10 Lift Incentive Scheme is designed to increase reliability of services for wheelchair bound Territorians that depend on taxis – it will be funded by the taxi industry, consumers and the NT Government.

The Northern Territory Government will continue funding the NT Taxi Subsidy Scheme for more than \$470 000 each year.

“At the request of the taxi industry, tariffs recently increased throughout the Territory to meet rising industry costs. In Darwin fares increased by 2.51% and by 3.89% in other areas – the 1.8% tariff increase is additional,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Operating taxis in the Territory is still much cheaper than the rest of Australia and I believe we have reached a fair agreement.”

The first five per cent increase will occur in March next year and the new \$10 Lift Incentive Scheme and associated 1.8% tariff increase starts this month.

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