

Transition for taxi licence holders

Point to Point Transport Reforms

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Who is this factsheet for?

Taxi licence holders. You are a taxi licence holder if you:

1. Lease an ordinary or short term licence directly from a taxi licence owner, or via an agent;
2. Have an annual licence issued by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner, including wheelchair accessible taxi licences;
3. Use an ordinary or short term licence you own to provide a taxi service.

This fact sheet provides an overview of the transition process for taxi licence holders. The fact sheet also provides answers to common questions.

This fact sheet is intended as a guide with more detailed information available on **Transport for NSW's website**.

What other fact sheets are available?

Another fact sheet is available called "*Financial Assistance*" that provides an overview of eligibility criteria, process and important dates for applying for financial assistance. Transport for NSW encourages anyone who owns an eligible taxi licence and runs a taxi business to read both factsheets.

Also available is a fact sheet called "*Proof of identity for taxi financial assistance*" that provides an overview of Proof of Identity requirements for the financial assistance scheme for owners of eligible taxi licences.

Transition for taxi licence holders

From 1 February 2023, anyone currently providing a taxi service will need to transition to the new regulatory framework for taxi licences. A taxi licence will still be needed to provide taxi services.

A transition period will start on 1 February 2023. During the transition period, only existing taxi licence holders will be able to apply to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner for a new taxi licence. This licence will replace the taxi licence currently used to provide taxi services.

Throughout the transition period, taxi licence holders will be able continue providing services to customers, if they apply to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner for a new taxi licence

At the end of the transition period, anyone will be able to apply to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner for a taxi licence.

The safety obligations of those providing point to point transport services will not change. The Point to Point Transport Commissioner continues to regulate safety.

Important information

The taxi licence transition will be managed by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner, who will contact eligible licence holders early in 2023 to explain the steps you need to take.

All taxi licence holders will need to exchange an existing licence for a new licence, including short-term, annual,

ordinary and wheelchair accessible taxi licences. There will be no cost to exchange the licence.

New wheelchair accessible taxi licences will continue to be available during the transition period.

Following the transition period any taxi licences that have not been exchanged will be cancelled

A dedicated telephone contact centre is available on 131 727 to help taxi licence holders.

Throughout all stages of the transition to the new regulatory framework for taxi licences, all taxis will need to be licensed. All taxis will need to comply with the relevant safety and security requirements. The regulation of safety will not change. The Point to Point Transport Commissioner continues to regulate the safety of point to point transport services.

Before the transition period starts

Taxi licence holders who want to keep providing services to customers will need to hold a taxi licence on 1 February 2023. This means that you lease the taxi licence from the owner of the taxi licence, or you have been issued an annual taxi licence by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner.

During the transition period

The transition period is expected to be a minimum of three months. Only existing taxi licence holders will be able to apply to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner for a new taxi licence. You will not have to pay any fees to be issued with a new taxi licence during the transition period.

Operating area restrictions will continue to apply during the transition period. The operating area restrictions will apply to new taxi licences that have been issued by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner. This means that rank and hail taxi trips may only start within the operating area specified on your licence.

New wheelchair accessible taxi licences will continue to be available during the transition period. Wheelchair accessible taxi licences are available on application to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner.

After the transition period

The transition period will end on a date determined by the NSW Government. The Point to Point Transport Commissioner will let you know when the transition period will end.

After the transition period, anyone will be able to apply to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner for a taxi licence. All area restrictions cease and a licensed taxi will be able to undertake rank and hail hirings starting anywhere in NSW.

An annual fee of \$200 will apply for every taxi licence, except for wheelchair accessible taxi licences, which will continue to be available for free on application to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner.

Taxi licences can not be transferred (bought or sold) or leased.

Frequently asked questions

I lease a taxi licence, do I need to do anything to transition to the new framework?

All taxi licence holders will need to transition to the new framework for taxi licensing. The Point to Point Transport Commissioner will contact you early in 2023 to explain the next steps.

You will need to transition to the new framework if you:

- Lease an ordinary or short term licence directly from a taxi licence owner, or via an agent;
- Have an annual licence issued by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner, including wheelchair accessible taxi licences; or
- Use an ordinary or short term licence you own to provide a taxi service.

What is the transition period?

During the transition period, the Point to Point Transport Commissioner will help taxi licence holders to transition to the new taxi licensing framework. The transition period will start on 1 February 2023 and will last for at least three months. The Point to Point Transport Commissioner will let you know when the transition period will finish.

How does the transition period relate to applications for financial assistance?

The transition period will start at the same time as Transport for NSW opens applications for financial assistance, however they are separate processes.

Transport for NSW will accept applications for financial assistance from eligible taxi licence owners. A fact sheet is available that provides more information about how to apply for financial assistance.

The Point to Point Transport Commissioner will manage the transition process for taxi licence holders. The transition period will enable taxi licence holders that are currently providing a taxi service to continue to do so without interruption.

Will I have to get new taxi plates?

No – the registration plate associated with the old taxi licence will be transferred across to the replacement licence with no need to physically exchange registration plates.

What will the annual taxi licence fees be?

There will be no fees to apply for a licence during the transition period. Following the transition period there will be an annual \$200 fee except for wheelchair accessible taxi licences.

Will there be any limits on the number of taxi licence plates available after the transition?

No, following the transition period all restrictions on taxi licence supply will be removed.

Can I renew my lease arrangement?

Taxi businesses are advised to carefully consider any lease arrangements in the lead up to the transition period. Following the transition period taxi licences will not be able to be leased and will be available only on application to the Point to Point Transport Commissioner.

Can I lease out my new licence?

No, once a taxi licence has transitioned it cannot be leased, sold or traded.

After the transition period, taxi licences will no longer be able to be traded or leased which means that there will only be one entity associated with each licence – the licence holder. Each licence holder will be directly involved in the operation of the business and provision of the taxi service.

Can I still have my taxi managed by a network / authorised service provider?

All taxis must be operated by a person who is either authorised as a service provider themselves or affiliated to an authorised service provider. This will not change.

Will taxi licence holders have to join an authorised service provider?

Under the new taxi licence scheme, an applicant will be required to be authorised by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner, or be affiliated with an authorised service provider, before the Commissioner will grant a taxi licence.

Will I still be able to buy or sell taxi licences?

After the transition period, taxi licences will no longer be able to be traded or leased which means that there will only be one entity associated with each licence – the licence holder. Each licence holder will be directly involved in the operation of the business and provision of the taxi service.

Next Steps

The Point to Point Transport Commissioner will contact you early in 2023 to explain the steps you need to take. Until then, please continue to check **Transport for NSW's website**.