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22 December 2022

## Keeping you informed of the Point to Point Transport Reforms

The NSW Government will soon open applications for financial assistance for taxi licence owners and will introduce changes to the way taxis are licensed. In early 2023, you will receive detailed instructions about what you need to do.

A financial assistance scheme with a value of \$760 million will be made available to owners of eligible taxi licences. This will assist taxi licence owners adjust to the removal of any limits on taxi licence supply. The financial assistance scheme will be funded by the passenger service levy, which will be increased by 20 cents to \$1.20 (ex GST) from 1 July 2023. The levy will remain in place until the end of 2030.

This financial assistance is in addition to the \$145 million already paid to the point to point transport industry. Owners of eligible licences will be able to apply for a \$150,000 payment for up to six licences that have Sydney as an operating area. Owners of eligible licences with operating areas outside of Sydney will be able to apply for a payment between \$40,000 and \$195,000, depending on the operating area.

The NSW Government has also announced measures to further support the availability of Wheelchair Accessible Taxis (WAT). This includes:

- an increase of the subsidy paid to the driver for each journey in a WAT, and
- an increase to the funding available for the WAT interest free loan scheme to provide for an additional 50 loans, each to a maximum value of \$100,000.

The regulation of the safety of point to point transport will not change and the Point to Point Transport Commissioner continues in his role as independent regulator for the industry.

### The financial assistance scheme for taxi licence owners

The detailed eligibility criteria for the financial assistance scheme are on Transport for NSW's website <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/point-to-point-transport-reforms>

### Important information

- The financial assistance scheme will be managed by Transport for NSW who will send you a letter in early 2023 with detailed information on how to apply.
- The application process for financial assistance will open in early 2023 for at least four months.
- Applications for financial assistance will be made through an online portal.
- Eligible taxi licence owners will need to provide certified copies of proof of identity documents and basic information about all the ordinary taxi licences they own.
- Eligible licence owners will not need to provide taxi licence certificates as part of an application for financial assistance.

- A dedicated telephone contact centre is available on **131 727** to help taxi licence owners complete their applications.

Transport for NSW is seeking advice from the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Department of Social Services on the treatment of financial assistance payments. If you are considering applying for financial assistance, you are encouraged to seek financial, tax and legal advice based on your individual circumstances.

### Transition for all taxi licences

In early 2023, anyone currently providing a taxi service will need to transition to the new regulatory framework for taxi licences.

### Important information

- The transition will be managed by the Point to Point Transport Commissioner, who will contact you early in 2023 explaining the steps you need to take.
- All current taxi licence holders will be able to exchange their existing licence for a new licence. All taxi licences will need to be exchanged including short-term, annual, ordinary and wheelchair accessible taxi licences.
- There will be no cost to exchange your 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.

When the transition starts, taxi licences will no longer be able to be bought, sold or leased. If you are a party to a taxi licence lease, you should consider what this means for your existing taxi licence lease arrangement and call **131 727** if you need further information.

### Next steps

Taxi licence owners and the wider taxi industry are encouraged to keep up to date by visiting the Transport for NSW website.

Taxi licence owners and holders should ensure their contact details are up to date by contacting the NSW Point to Point Transport Commissioner on **131 727**.

You will receive detailed information in early 2023, before the financial assistance scheme opens for applications and the transition of taxi licences starts.

If you need further information, you can contact Transport for NSW using the contact form on the Transport for NSW website <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/programs/point-to-point-transport-reforms>, or by calling **131 727**.

Sincerely,

Ed Debenham  
Executive Director, Customer Strategy and Experience