



# Recommendations for maximum rank and hail taxi fares from 1 July 2025

16 May 2025

The NSW Government asked IPART to review and make *recommendations* on the maximum fares for travel in taxis caught from a taxi rank or hailed from the street. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) will consider IPART's recommendations in determining maximum rank and hail taxi fares in a Fares Order to apply from 1 July 2025.

## We recommend higher maximum urban rank and hail fares, especially for shorter journeys

Our recommended urban fare schedule increases the maximum flag fall from \$3.60 to \$5.00 and increases the distance rate for the first 12 km by 10%. Maximum fares will be around \$2-\$5 higher for all types of taxi trips (depending on length), with fares for shorter trips increasing by a greater proportion. Our recommendation is aimed at addressing issues of short fare refusal, without significantly impacting affordability of those shorter trips.

## We recommend slightly higher maximum rank and hail fares for the country fare area

Our recommended country fare schedule increases the maximum flag fall from \$4.10 to \$5.11 and increases all distance rates by 2.2%. Maximum fares will be a bit higher (by around 3%-9%, depending on length) for all rank and hail taxi trips in the country fare area. Our recommendation reflects that most taxi trips in the country are typically booked, and at current fare levels, supply is typically able to meet demand for rank and hail services.

Our recommendations are for maximum rank and hail fares. Taxi service providers can set their rank and hail fares at a lower level than the regulated maximums. Fares for booked trips in taxis are no longer regulated.

## We recommend that maximum fares increase annually by CPI

We are recommending that each of the maximum fare components increases by CPI (all capitals) annually, from 1 July 2026. This is to ensure that maximum fares stay in line with other price level movements for both consumers and taxi service providers.

We are also recommending that the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Driver Incentive Subsidy (WATDIS – commonly known as a 'lift fee') be indexed in a similar fashion.

We recommend that the next review of fares occur in 5 years' time to apply from 1 July 2030, unless circumstances create the need for an earlier review.

## We are recommending a trial of fixed fares from Sydney Airport to the Sydney CBD (postcode 2000)

The Minister for Transport asked us to consider a fare methodology for trips from Sydney Airport to destinations such as the Sydney CBD. We are recommending that TfNSW undertake a trial of fixed fares from the Sydney Airport taxi ranks to the Sydney CBD, defined as postcode 2000 (one direction only). We are recommending that this fare be set at:

- \$60 for standard taxis
- \$80 for maxi taxis.

We are also recommending that maxi taxi fares can be charged when a maxi taxi is specifically requested at the Sydney Airport taxi ranks, regardless of the number of passengers.

## We are recommending more detailed information on receipts

Through our review process, we found that passengers would benefit from clearer information on receipts. We are recommending (in line with Australian Consumer Law) that the Government require paper or digital receipts clearly itemise all applicable cost components for the trip's fare, including:

- the metered fare
- road tolls
- extras, such as the Sydney Airport Ground Transport Access Fee
- Passenger Service Levy
- GST
- and any non-cash payment surcharges.

We are also recommending that identifying information should be included on receipts, including taxi service provider details, taxi plate number, driver ID, and a contact number or website.

Table 1 Recommended maximum rank and hail taxi fares

Fare Component	Current level	Final recommendation
<b>Urban Fare Schedule</b>		
Hire charge (flag fall)	\$3.60	<b>\$5.00</b>
Peak time charge <sup>a</sup>	\$2.50	<b>\$2.56</b>
Distance rate (\$/km)	\$2.29	<b>\$2.52 (first 12 km) \$2.29 thereafter</b>
Night rate (\$/km) <sup>b</sup>	\$2.73	<b>\$3.00 (first 12 km) \$2.73 thereafter</b>
Waiting time	\$56.68/hour (94.4c/min)	<b>\$65.52/hr (109.2c/min)</b>
<b>Country Fare Schedule</b>		
Hire charge (flag fall)	\$4.10	<b>\$5.11</b>
Distance rate (\$/km)	\$2.36 (first 12 km) \$3.23 thereafter	<b>\$2.41 (first 12 km) \$3.30 thereafter</b>
Night rate (\$/km) <sup>c</sup>	\$2.81 (first 12 km) \$3.85 thereafter	<b>\$2.87 (first 12 km) \$3.93 thereafter</b>
Waiting time	\$57.65/hour (96c/min)	<b>\$62.67/hr (104.5c/min)</b>
<b>Extras</b>		
Passenger service levy	\$1.20 (\$1.32 incl. GST)	<b>\$1.20 (\$1.32 incl. GST)</b>
Maxi taxi surcharge <sup>d</sup>	150% of maximum fare	<b>150% of maximum fare</b>
WATDIS (lift fee)	\$25 <sup>e,f</sup>	<b>\$25<sup>e,f</sup></b>

a. Applied in addition to the flag fall, 10pm – 6am on Fridays, Saturdays, and evenings prior to Public Holidays

b. Applies between 10pm – 6am all nights of the week

c. Applies between 10pm – 6am all nights of the week, and all days on Sundays and Public Holidays

d. The maxi taxi surcharge may only be charged if it is hired from a taxi zone or street hail to carry 5 or more passengers. We are also recommending that it is charged if the vehicle is requested by the hirer at the Sydney Airport taxi ranks, other than for the carriage of a person who uses a wheelchair or mobility aid.

e. Transport for NSW has increased the lift fee from \$15 to \$25 in March 2025 – see [NSW Government Response to the Key Findings Report - Availability of Wheelchair Accessible Services Roundtables](#)

f. Lift fee increases to \$30 between 10pm – 6am all nights of the week, and \$50 on all NSW public holidays