

29 April 2002

Submission to Taxi Fare Review

I wish to make a submission in regard to Maxi Taxi operators.

While this is not a service I use regularly, I do nevertheless use this service from time to time and I am aware of a number of my friends who are wheel chair bound and rely on this service.

It is my belief that the Government's proposal to restrict fares for this type of taxi will ultimately lead to a reduction in services to users.

The current arrangements whereby the number of passengers results in a sliding scale fare, I believe, is equitable and provides encouragement for taxi drivers to provide this type of service. On a number of occasions I have travelled with large groups, including a wheel chair bound passenger, and found this to be an excellent service.

I am aware that many drivers providing this service do not receive the same level of calls as other taxis and their income is not substantial.

I do not believe that users will object to paying a reasonable fare when the service they are receiving is worthwhile.

Accordingly I believe the Government should seek to have a fare structure that recognises the number of passengers being transported.

That a \$5.00 minimum surcharge for luggage should apply.

That deregulated fares should be maintained for fares involving 6 or more passengers and fares where maxi taxis are specifically requested.

An increase in the booking fee of either 5c or 15c to total either \$1.20 or \$1.30 should be made.

Return tolls payable on all tollways should be paid, not just the bridge and tunnel tolls.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Barry Cotter
Mayor of Marrickville