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Submission: Thank you for the chance to state our opposition to your Draft report on Taxi Fares in NSW and Licences outside of Sydney.

Your consultation process is appreciated and my comments are presented on behalf of members of the NSW North Coast Taxi Council.

Transcribed comments at your Coffs Harbour presentation clearly denote the number of regional operations within the North Coast whose businesses are struggling and have elected to place plates on hold and/or roster sufficient vehicles to adequately service current demand. I am advised that you have noted similar comment from other regional centres. These regional Operators know their business; have been providing their services for in excess of forty years and roster to meet required demand in cognisance of the need to provide income to their drivers at reasonable levels.

Our industry is amidst massive challenges and embracing change forced upon us by the Share Economy and Government inaction to enforce regulations and they once stood. Regional Operations are moving with these changes albeit without as much pressure from Rideshare operations as our City cousins.

You recommend that additional taxis are required in Regional NSW following your market research. We believe that your research is seriously flawed and strongly question the demographic equity of your sampling model. Did you examine the Response Time data which Regional Operators were required to provide to Transport for NSW?

If you did you would well note impressive data thoroughly proving that taxi operations in Regional NSW provide a very timely service and that your recommendation to TfNSW to release additional licences is totally unwarranted, needed or justifiable. Additional Licences in Regional NSW will lead to drivers exiting the industry, small business closures and a decline in the valuable 24/7 service provided by existing Operators.

Please refine your Draft accordingly prior to finalisation

Warm regards

Steve Read

Secretary, North Coast Taxi Council