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## Taxi Fares and Licensing Submission

## **Response:**

2) Maximum fare - country - Rank & hail

RETAIN the current fare structure (\$4.10 + \$1.20 booking fee).

Reason: Customers appreciate certainty and consistency.

Alternative model? Well yes. The \$1.10 "temporary" levy should be added to the flag fall for its duration.

So, from Feb, 2018. Flag fall \$5.20, booking fee \$1.20

Surcharges? Retain the 2 x tiered tariff.

Structure: Tariff (1) 6am to 10pm, Monday - Saturday

Tariff (3) 10pm to 6am, Monday - Saturday

plus all Sunday and public holidays.

Reason: IPART were instrumental in establishing this fare structure : Country Customers appreciate our good service, price certainty and consistency.

the only pricing changes our Network will be initiating will be pre-bookings.

3) Review of new annual taxi licences country.

Apart from the historical "territorial" component our Network licences were issued by transport for NSW, our members have absolutely NO intention of operating outside our current boundaries.

If regional licencees were allowed to come into our area of operation, the financial and operational (staffing) impact would be extremely detrimental.

For Barbara Wise to declare at the Tamworth meeting several weeks ago that "during busy times like your Music Festival, you can bring in, or outside operators can come to Tamworth, and help with the work load", shows what little understanding she has of the "transport

model" that exists during that festival - our Network is part of a well organised and coordinated transport package (taxis, buses and community transport) that ensures minimal wait times for festival goers. Interfering with that well organised model would show lack of understanding of the facts and simple ignorance.

The issues of public serviceability by taxis in the capital cities and some major coastal centres obviously required urgent attention: That issue has never existed in our Network, and we service our customers (who we "live with") with respect and efficiency. For the Commissioner to alter areas of operation would be both financially and operationally disastrous.

Please RETAIN licences on hold - NO licences in our area of operation have been "handed in", and we do NOt require any additional licenced operators. Our Tamworth network strongly urge IPART to recommend to the Commissioner to RETAIN licences on old.

Our industry has experienced a REDUCTION of 50% in the taxi asset value as a result of the NSW Governments "deregulation": Adding licences to regional/country networks will severely impact on our cash flow - and viability. Why?