

## IPART Taxi Fare Review

This submission is from the point of view of a wheelchair accessible maxi taxi operator/driver. The two most controversial submissions are from the Taxi Council and Transport NSW regarding maxi taxis.

My understanding of the regulations are that currently fares involving excessive luggage/equipment or 6 or more passengers are deregulated. The most common approach by professional maxi taxi drivers has been to have a surcharge, a multiple or a price per person. Depending on the situation, most drivers explain the fare structure at the beginning of the journey.

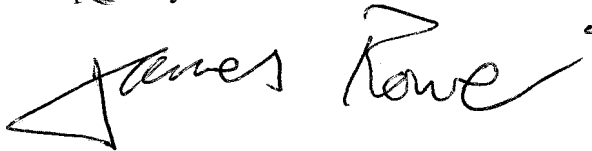
Put simply, keeping maxi taxi fares deregulated is the preferred way to go.

To impose another tariff for maxis will lead to unprofessional drivers charging that tariff all the time just as unprofessional standard taxis charge tariff 2 all the time by removing the appropriate red light.

To limit the multiple to **fifty** percent on short fares or fares involving 9 or more passengers deprives the maxi driver of legitimate income and makes standard taxis even less attractive from the passengers point of view. (eg the \$10 surcharge on short trips makes passengers decide whether they want to pay for the convenience of travelling together or separately.) to not allow drivers to charge a price per person at large events (eg horse races, football games) where the supply of cabs is limited defeats the whole concept of an 11 seater taxi.

There appears to be challenges at the airport where shuttle buses compete with maxi taxis. Should a price per person be established on maxi fares from the airport to the city? Should there be a flat fee for luggage to avoid confusion about what will fit into a station wagon and what won't. As more maxis come on the road, customers are showing a preference for travelling in a maxi over a standard taxi. Should 5 seater taxi fares also become deregulated since the standard taxi is now a 4 passenger vehicle?

I sincerely hope that these comments and suggestions are useful and should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.



James Rowe  
Operator



Baulkham Hills 2153