

Dear Tribunal members,

I have only today become aware that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal are currently undertaking a review of taxi fares in NSW.

While examining your website, I understand that I may now be too late to make a formal submission.

However, I would urge the Tribunal to provide serious consideration to ending the current anomaly in taxi fares that allow taxi drivers to charge a premium on fares travelling north bound over the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This amounts to a \$3 tip for every taxi travelling north across the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I understand that many years ago this addition to the regular fare was given to the taxi industry to compensate taxi drivers on the premise that they would need to return south across the Harbour Bridge.

I work for a NSW Government department based at North Sydney and my business requires numerous taxi journeys each week to the city. My preference would be to travel by rail. But this is frequently not possible because of tight time frames.

On every return journey, the taxi is permitted to re-coup the cost of the bridge toll - even though there is no toll on north bound Sydney Harbour Bridge traffic. On almost every journey, upon arrival, the taxi is immediately engaged by another passenger - sometimes travelling back to the city or going elsewhere on the north shore.

It is time that this fare anomaly ended.

Hope the Tribunal members can give this consideration in making the final determination.

Yours sincerely

| Wayne Geddes
| Director, Media and Communications
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