

**Taxi Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
Record of Meeting – Monday 17 September 2012**

Floor 6 Boardroom, T-Central, 420 George Street, Brisbane

Agenda Item No	Topic	Discussion
<p>Present: TCQ – Benjamin Wash, Bill Parker, Max McBride, Layne Gardiner, Noel Spain. John Tighe, Martin O’Riordon, TMR – Rose Kent (Chair), Steven Banaghan, Scott Notley, Lee Baker, Michael Crellin, Ken Cluff, Theresa Guy</p> <p>Apologies: Janine Girvan</p>		
1.	Welcome and Apologies	<p>Rose Kent opened the meeting at 1pm and welcomed members. Apology from Janine Girvan was noted.</p> <p>Rose provided TCQ members with an update on the TMR restructure and distributed TMR’s high level structure. Michael Caltabiano is Director-General, Mark Cridland, Graeme Fraine, Paul Smith, Neil Scales and Nicole Bunning are Deputy Directors-General. Passenger Transport Division is now part of the new TransLink Division which also includes the former TransLink Transit Authority. Neil Scales is the Deputy Director-General (TransLink Division). Matt Longland is General Manager (GM) Passenger Transport Integration, Steve Banaghan is GM Passenger Transport Services and Mark Hope is GM Technology & Finance.</p> <p>Rose distributed a high level structure of the new TransLink Division. The regional PT offices are now part of TransLink Division and the PT managers will report through to Rose. Compliance remains in a separate division but will work closely with TransLink Division on PT compliance priorities and activities.</p> <p>Steve Banaghan briefly outlined his background to members. His previous role in the TransLink Transit Authority was Executive Director, Passenger Rail and he advised that he was looking forward to working closely with taxi industry representatives.</p>
2.	Confirmation of minutes	All members agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the June meeting.

	from previous meeting	
3.	Review Action List	<p><u>Action 1. Rising Cost of CTP Insurance for Class 3</u></p> <p>TMR advised there is no further update on the quarterly registration payments as no further advice has been received from the business unit progressing this.</p> <p>ACTION CARRIED OVER – TMR to continue to provide updates on quarterly registration payments at future meetings</p> <p><u>Action 2. Stopping on yellow lines</u></p> <p>TMR advised they have met with Brisbane City Council on this issue. TMR has been advised that Council is progressing a City Centre Transport Strategy, along with a City Centre Master Plan and TMR has been advised that the issue of yellow lines will be included in the issues register for discussion and further consideration. Council officers have indicated that they are very interested in discussing this and other taxi-related issues directly and would appreciate TCQ nominating an appropriate contact person with whom they can engage throughout the development of the Transport Strategy. TMR requested TCQ to nominate a contact person to engage with Council on these issues.</p> <p>ACTION – TCQ to advise TMR of appropriate contact person to engage with Brisbane City Council on the City Centre Transport Strategy.</p> <p><u>Action 3. CEO replacement - Completed</u></p> <p>TMR advised a briefing note was progressed to the Director-General to make recommendations on the continuation of various passenger transport related committees and the following advice has been received - Disability Discrimination Act Reference Group and Taxi Industry Health and Safety Committee will not continue as departmental committees, Taxi and Limousine Strategic Planning Committees are to continue. The Minister suggested that the Assistant Minister should be asked if he wished to attend Taxi Industry Advisory Committee meetings. TCQ members advised they will be hosting Health and Safety Committee and Taxi DDA meetings. Rose</p>

		<p>Kent confirmed that TMR would be happy to have representation on these groups.</p> <p><u>Action 4. Workplan projects</u></p> <p>TMR has received no feedback to date.</p> <p>ACTION CARRIED OVER – TCQ to provide feedback to prioritise workplan projects.</p> <p><u>Action 5. English Assessment - Completed</u></p> <p>TMR advised the new English assessment process for Driver Authorisation was implemented on 1 July 2012. TMR is now looking forward to the first quarterly report, which will provide feedback on assessment statistics.</p> <p>ACTION – Scott Notley to distribute pro-forma for quarterly report</p> <p><u>Action 6. Taxi Security Cameras – Future direction - Completed</u></p> <p>TMR advised the policy paper is with Rose for review and approval before a briefing note is progressed to the Minister. TMR advised amendments were made to the policy paper to ensure the audio requirement will mirror visual images and these changes were directly as a result of feedback received. TMR officers advised they provided the policy paper to the Privacy Commissioner and QPS for comments before it was finalized. TMR proposes to have the policy paper released for public consultation in October 2012.</p> <p><u>Action 7. goCatch</u></p> <p>TCQ advised that Ben Warren is progressing this issue on behalf of TCQ. TMR advised that consideration is being given to legislation changes. TMR also advised that they had received feedback from one of the taxi booking companies that the ACCC had indicated that there was no problem with managing the issue through taxi booking company bylaws.</p> <p>ACTION CARRIED OVER – TCQ to explore bylaws component</p> <p><u>Action 8 Taxi Reform Package – Rec 4 Training - Completed</u></p> <p>TMR advised that currently 90% of criminal history checks are received back from QPS in 10 days and the</p>
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4.	<p>Work Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxi - Industry 	<p>Taxi Reform Package – Rec 3 English Assessment Standard</p> <p>TMR advised the English assessment was implemented by the deadline on 1 July 2012. TMR is currently working on the training for Wheelchair Accessible Taxi (WAT) drivers with legislative and delivery policies to be reconsidered with legislation anticipated to be in place by 1 July 2013. TMR advised the dates for introduction will be staggered, with the training for new WAT drivers being implemented on 1 July 2013 while training for existing WAT drivers is to be implemented at a later date. TMR advised that whilst the WAT training will be implemented in 2013, some Registered Training Organisations are already delivering WAT competencies in their training programs.</p> <p>Prohibit the use and installation of taximeters in limousines</p> <p>TMR advised that amendments to the Act are being progressed that will prohibit the installation or use of</p>

		<p>taximeters in vehicles providing public passenger services except taxis. TMR advised that the proposed amendments are currently going through the approval process and are anticipated to take effect in the first half of 2013. Offenders will be issued with on the spot penalty infringement notices.</p> <p>Police link</p> <p>TMR advised that due to QPS reconfiguring their districts, the Regional Police Liaison Officer project is on hold. TMR expects that by mid October the new system of reporting fare evasion by telephone or internet will be implemented, which will alleviate the need for taxi drivers to wait around in a police station. This system will only be available to those drivers reporting crimes which have already occurred, not for crimes being committed where it will still be necessary to call 000. TMR advised that a brochure outlining the procedure is ready to be distributed and uploaded onto the web as soon as advice is received from QPS. TCQ questioned that in the event of fare evasion, was there a possibility of the driver being able to immediately download images from the taxi security camera onto a USB stick, have it encrypted and then pass it onto QPS for action. TMR advised they would explore the possibility of the camera specifications allowing this type of download.</p> <p>ACTION – TMR to explore the possibility of taxi drivers downloading taxi security camera onto a USB memory stick in the instance of fare evasion.</p> <p>Taxi Subsidy Scheme</p> <p>TMR confirmed the government's recent budget announcement of pending changes to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS), where a \$400 per year cap will be introduced for each member from 1 July 2013. TMR advised the following TSS statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The average subsidy cost per trip is \$8.20➤ 20% of members use more than \$400 in subsidies per year➤ 15,000 of the 52,000 members were not active in 2011-12➤ 15,000 members used less than \$100 subsidy last year
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5.	Driver supply – barriers to entry	<p>TCQ advised that the requirement for a driver licence to be held for 3 continuous years with 12 months of that under an Australian licence to be eligible to apply for taxi DA., is causing a shortage in drivers. TCQ suggested introducing a competency test instead which should be assessed on a case by case basis. TMR advised that there were intangible benefits behind the 12 month driving requirement, including the ability to speak English and customer service skills. TCQ said many drivers return overseas and are not receiving the benefit of Australian driving experience in that 12 month period. TCQ advised that the taxi industry is considering their options for sponsorship under the subclass 457 visa program as driver supply gets tighter. TMR suggested TCQ supply data</p>

		<p>to support their position on the dwindling supply of taxi drivers. TCQ advised that the requirement for 12 month driving experience was implemented in 2009 by Minister Nolan who said she would be open to look at other options after 12 months. TMR advised they are currently assessing the suitability of the current legislative requirement and looking at alternative options which will achieve the same objective.</p> <p>Action – TCQ to provide any data that validates their view of driver numbers and the value of the 12 month requirement.</p>
6.	Government relations	<p>TCQ stated that they understand the new government's stand on cost cutting, however the taxi industry was hopeful that the change of government would be beneficial in achieving outcomes. The rejection of the Wheelchair Customer Service Payment and the introduction of a cap of \$400 for members of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme have not been well accepted by the industry. TCQ also stated that the automated taxi meter project, which has been an important project will provide benefits to the community.</p> <p>TCQ raised the issue of taxis contributing to bus services in regional Queensland saying that the taxi industry is already supplying services to HACC members in some areas and wish to continue and expand on these services. TMR advised that consultation with Department of Communities regarding the proposal to conduct a trial in the Sunshine Coast and Monto areas is still being progressed. .</p>
7	WCSP	TCQ advised due to the government rejecting the Wheelchair Customer Service Payment, they will be developing another submission to the Minister on behalf of drivers.
8.	CTP	Further to discussions earlier in Review of Actions, TCQ reminded TMR that the cost to register a hybrid vehicle is \$7200 pa and the cost to register a petrol vehicle is \$7500 pa, noting that TMR has been aware of industry's feelings on this issue for the past 10 years.
9.	TCQ nominees – City centre transport strategy	Previously discussed in Review of Actions. TCQ confirmed they will advise TMR of an appropriate contact person to engage with Council.
10.	General Business	TCQ advised that they had a good attendance at the recent Taxi Conference, however it was disappointing there was no TMR representation at this conference. TCQ advised the next conference will be held on the Sunshine

		<p>Coast and are hopeful TMR will attend.</p> <p>TCQ advised that recently an operator requested a new 'Prius C' be registered as a taxi, highlighting the economic viability of the small car, however not having consideration for customer comfort in the small car. TCQ requested TMR legislate against using this vehicle and similar smaller vehicles as taxis. TMR confirmed current legislation states vehicles providing a taxi service must comply with Schedule 8 (Public Passenger Vehicles) which states that taxi services can be provided in a passenger car. TMR again advised that the booking companies can set a standard higher than the legislative requirements for any vehicles affiliated with them.</p> <p>TCQ wished to reiterate that the government should consider accepting gocards for payment of taxi fares, for customer convenience as well as the fact that it would link taxis into the public transport system in South East Queensland.</p> <p>TCQ advised that Capricorn Cabs have signed a new despatch contract. They have also taken steps to improve capacity, train new drivers and have operators working a minimum number of shifts per week. TCQ commented that there are only nine licences operating in Yeppoon with a population of 30,000 and have requested the use of a Substitute Taxi for the fleet. The request was declined by the PT Rockhampton office. TMR advised Capricorn Cabs to continue discussions with the Rockhampton PT office.</p> <p>TCQ requested more copies of the <i>Wheelchair and Mobility Scooter guide for safe travel in Queensland</i> brochure as present stock has been depleted and printing has ceased because it is available to download from the website. TCQ requested TMR investigate if there is any surplus stock of the brochure.</p> <p>Action – TMR to investigate if any there is any surplus stock of the Wheelchair and Mobility Scooter guide.</p>
11.	Confirmation of next meeting 3 December 2012	All members confirmed the next meeting date to be 3 December 2012
12.	Close	Meeting closed at 3 pm