



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

Our ref: CMTEDD 25/15-16



Dear [REDACTED]

### **Freedom of Information Request – Taxi Regulations**

I refer to your request submitted under section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act), received by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 25 September 2015. I apologise for the short delay in processing this request.

I also note that since making your request, the Government has announced its reforms in relation to the taxi industry and much of the information you are requesting has been made publicly available.

You specifically seek the following:

1. *Regulatory Impact Statement for the proposed changes to taxi regulations.*
2. *The cost of regulatory compliance under the current taxi regulations.*
3. *Cost of compliance under the proposed new taxi regulation.*
4. *Annual budget allocated to compliance enforcement under the new taxi/ridesharing legislation.*

### **Decision Maker**

I am authorised under section 22 of the Act and have been appointed to make a decision as to the imposition of charges and the provision of access to documents that fall within the scope of your request.

### **Charges**

I have decided under section 29 of the Act not to impose processing charges for this request.

### **Identification of Documents**

You are seeking specific information, rather than a class of documents relating to various subjects or decisions. In order to respond to your request I will address each aspect in turn:

1. *Regulatory Impact Statement for the proposed changes to taxi regulations.*

The Government's reforms have been designed to remove rather than impose regulatory burden for the taxi industry. Imposition of regulatory burden is the usual trigger for preparing a formal regulatory impact statement.

As such, a regulatory impact statement has not been prepared. However, it is important to note that the impact of the reforms on industry was considered as part of the review and design of the Government's reforms. This consideration is set out in the economic modelling of the Government's analysis that underpins reform. Both documents were released as part of the Government's announcement and available at: <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/policystrategic/regreform/2015-taxi-industry-innovation-reforms/additional-background-information> , specifically the Report on Industry Reforms and the Report on economic modelling of industry.

*2. The cost of regulatory compliance under the current taxi regulations.*

The direct cost of ACT Government regulatory charges (licencing and accreditation fees) currently applicable to the taxi industry is in the order of \$2 million per annum.

We do not have a figure for the current indirect cost (i.e. cost of compliance activity) for taxi booking services, taxi operators and drivers. Calculation of such a figure would be on the basis of advice from the taxi industry.

*3. Cost of compliance under the proposed new taxi regulation.*

The announced reforms will significantly reduce direct regulatory costs (Government fees and charges) for taxi booking services, taxi operators and drivers. Reductions in regulation will also reduce the cost of complying with regulatory requirements for the taxi industry.

You might also be interested in the fact sheet on fees and charges available at: [http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/778595/150929\\_ACT-TaxiIndustryReforms\\_Fees.pdf](http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/778595/150929_ACT-TaxiIndustryReforms_Fees.pdf)

*4. Annual budget allocated to compliance enforcement under the new taxi/ridesharing legislation.*

The annual budget allocated to compliance enforcement under new taxi/ridesharing legislation is included in the ACT Budget 2015-16, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, Output Class 10, which is publicly available from the following link: [http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/733809/B-CMTED-Budget-Statements.pdf](http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/733809/B-CMTED-Budget-Statements.pdf).

Total expenditure for licensing and regulatory compliance for 2014-15 was around \$1.6 million for the Public Transport Regulation team consisting of 6.5 officers.

**Decision on Access**

If you are not satisfied with this information or decision, please feel free to contact my office to discuss the additional information you seek. I am more than happy to meet with you to discuss the information you are seeking. I can be contacted on (02) 620 79043 or [Fiona.barbaro@act.gov.au](mailto:Fiona.barbaro@act.gov.au).

Alternatively, you may wish to discuss with me or the FOI Coordinator in relation to submitting a new application under the Act, specifying the additional documents to which

you request access. The FOI coordinator can be contacted on (02) 6207 8175, or [CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au). We would be happy to assist you in framing a request so you get access to the information that you require.

### **Your right of review**

#### Internal Review

Under section 59 (1) of the Act, you may request a review of my decision. You have 28 days after receiving notice of my decision to ask for a review, or a further period as allowed by the Director-General.

Your request should be addressed to:

Director-General  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

#### Complaints to the Ombudsman


Under section 54 of the Act, you may complain to the Ombudsman about administrative matters relating to the processing of your FOI request. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Ombudsman will conduct an independent investigation into your complaint.

You can contact the Ombudsman either by telephone on 1300 362 072 or in writing to:

The Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Once again, I would be happy to elaborate on this decision with you and address any specific concerns or questions you may have. I am contactable on (02) 620 79043.

Yours sincerely

  
Fiona Barbaro  
Director, Government Reform

30 October 2015