

ACT TAXI INDUSTRY INNOVATION REFORMS

NEW SERVICES
NEW OPPORTUNITIES



TAXI AND HIRE CAR DRIVERS

The ACT Government has announced innovation reforms to the taxi and broader on-demand transport industry. The announcement follows a review that investigated how emerging technologies and new business models can contribute to a better on-demand transport system.

WHAT'S CHANGING?

The ACT will be the first jurisdiction in Australia to legalise and regulate ridesharing services, and the first capital city in the world to regulate ridesharing before the service has begun. The ACT will also regulate third-party taxi booking services.

The reforms will ensure that Canberrans have access to safe, flexible and affordable taxi, hire car and ridesharing services while also reducing significant costs and regulatory burden on the existing taxi and hire car industries to ensure they remain competitive and sustainable for drivers, owners and passengers.

WHEN WILL THE CHANGES HAPPEN?

The reforms will take effect on **30 October 2015** and be delivered in two stages:

Stage 1 is an interim phase that allows authorised ridesharing and other innovative booking services to operate subject to safeguards such as criminal history and driver history checks of drivers. It will also deliver an immediate reduction in fees for taxis and hire cars. This stage will start on 30 October 2015.

Stage 2 involves the introduction of new laws into the Legislative Assembly to introduce the full suite of reforms, including driver accreditation requirements for rideshare and reduced regulation for taxis and hire cars. The new laws will be introduced by 30 October 2015 and subject to debate and commencement at a later date.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR TAXI AND HIRE CAR DRIVERS, GENERALLY?

- Taxis and hire cars will continue to be an integral part of our public transport system and an important way to travel, the reforms will help the industries to remain sustainable.
- Only taxis will be allowed to pick people up off the street and at taxi ranks. All other on-demand drivers must arrange pre-booked fares. It is very important to know that ridesharing cars are not allowed to pick up passengers off the street without a booking or at a taxi rank at any time.
- There won't be any changes to the WAT service, wheelchair accessible taxis centralised booking service and the Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

Key government fees will be significantly reduced, and training fees will decline for drivers.

STAGE 1 FROM 30 OCTOBER 2015:

- Legal introduction of rideshare under an interim regulated arrangement.

Drivers will have access to multiple modes of business, from traditional rank and hail work, to ridesharing and third party taxi booking apps.

STAGE 2 AFTER THE NEW LEGISLATION IS PASSED:

- Companies providing booking services to taxi and rideshare drivers will be regulated as Transport Booking Services (TBS). This means there won't be a taxi "network" anymore and companies like Aerial, Uber, and goCatch will need to become TBSs.
- As a driver, you might be allowed to take bookings from all of the TBSs. This will be good for drivers because you might find yourself busier and taking more pre-booked rides during your shift. However, if a TBS says you are only able to take bookings from them and not from any other TBS, that means you are their employee for the purpose of workers' compensation and you must be covered, so in the event of an injury, you should inform the TBS.
- Also – if you are a driver but not the vehicle owner – under the new rules you might also be covered for workers' compensation. It won't matter anymore whether you work on a regular basis or just for a one-off shift. You can find out more about workers' compensation and learn more about bailment agreements, and how they can work better for you by contacting Access Canberra.

- Some of the regulations that have applied to taxi drivers will be removed. For example, it won't be against the law anymore not to wear a uniform, or to have an unclean uniform (although a TBS might still require this).
- We are also looking at what training you have to do as a driver, to make sure it doesn't take too long and covers what you really should know – that way drivers can spend more time on the road and less time in the classroom. Updates on training requirements will be provided by Access Canberra when they become available.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR RIDESHARE DRIVERS?

There are important things to know about ridesharing. You can learn more by viewing the Fact Sheet for Rideshare Drivers at www.act.gov.au/taxi-industry-reforms

HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REFORMS

You can learn more about the reforms and get updates at www.act.gov.au/taxi-industry-reforms