



MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEARING INQUIRY INTO TAXI LICENSING AND SUBLEASING

The Public Accounts Committee is holding public hearings in Alice Springs and Darwin for its inquiry into taxi licensing and subleasing.

“Concerns about the allocation of licences in Alice Springs was the primary reason the Legislative Assembly referred taxi licensing to the PAC for inquiry”, Mrs Kate Worden MLA, the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, said. “The hearing in Alice Springs will enable the Committee to speak directly to taxi drivers and operators about the issues that have been raised.”

The PAC’s investigation is addressing four key questions:

- How should taxi licences be allocated?
- Should subleasing taxi licences be banned?
- Should there be a cap on the number of taxi licences?
- How can the rules be better enforced?

The Committee has received over 70 submissions from taxi companies, operators and drivers and Government Departments. However, due to confidentiality concerns the Committee has only made the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics’ submission public to date.

“Concerns have been raised in the media about the possibility of those speaking to the PAC being victimised. This would not only be an improper interference in the work of the Assembly but also illegal. Intimidating a witness to an Assembly Committee could result in fines or imprisonment”, Mrs Worden noted.

“This inquiry will be making recommendations to the Assembly and the Government about ensuring licensing rules are fair for all concerned and promote a strong and effective taxi industry that serves the needs of Territorians.”

The Alice Springs hearings will be at the Central Australia Development Office from 11 am on Thursday, 20 July and the Darwin hearings from 9 am on Monday, 24 July 2017 at Parliament House. Details are available from parliament.nt.gov.au.

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