

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Commercial Passenger Vehicle Review

- 1. What is the current status of the Review into the Northern Territory Commercial Passenger industry, originally promised in 2020 by Minister Manison?**

On 15 March 2022, the Northern Territory Government released the Commercial Passenger (CPV) Review Report (the report). The report includes a number of recommendations aimed towards supporting the government's work in providing a safe and efficient CPV industry which meets the needs of the community.

- 2. When was the consultancy tender to undertake this Review awarded? Please provide the date.**

The tender was assessed and awarded in January 2021.

- 3. What was the name of the company that undertook this Review?**

The review was undertaken by Fivenines Consulting Pty Ltd.

- 4. When was the Review completed?**

The review was completed for the Department's consideration in June 2021.

- 5. Exactly when did the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics receive the Report of the Review?**

The Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics received the Report in December 2021.

- 6. Exactly when did the Northern Territory Government Transport executives receive the Report of the Review?**

Executive management received a briefing from the consultant in July 2021 and continued to work with the consultant and other officers in the later half of 2021 to ensure that the report took into account covid and post-covid implications for the industry.

Will this Report be made public? If so, when? If not, please provide the reasoning for this decision.

The Report was released on 15 March 2022.

7. What work is currently being undertaken by the Northern Territory Government regarding the Taxi Industry?

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has commenced engaging and working with industry and stakeholders to implement recommendations by re-establishing the CPV forums across the Territory. Recommendations from the report that will be implemented include:

- the removal of the cap on taxi license numbers in Darwin and Alice Springs in a staged approach over five years;
- ensuring equity of service of wheelchair accessible taxis with the introduction of key performance indicators, sanctions and increased compliance;
- removing the high occupancy tariff and multiple hire rates to reduce confusion for passengers about how rates are calculated and overcharged;
- provide financial support by way of a grant of \$15 000, to assist taxi operators meeting the costs of converting taxis to wheelchair accessible vehicles;
- increased training for drivers to improve the safety of passengers in wheelchairs;
- improving vehicle cosmetics for passengers through the introduction of core cosmetic requirements; and
- improving complaint reporting systems.

8. How many of the 11 recommendations of the 2017 “Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Taxi Licensing and Subleasing” have been implemented? Please provide details.

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics has implemented 9 of the 11 recommendations with the 2 outstanding being considered as part of the current Commercial Passenger Vehicle Review.

9. In 2018 the Minister for Transport stated that the Government would make a decision about the implementation of Recommendation 1 of the 2017 “Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Taxi Licensing and Subleasing” which pertained to the cap on taxi licenses in the Northern Territory. Please provide an indication of what the Government is currently doing to implement this commitment.

The removal of the cap on taxi license numbers in Darwin and Alice Springs will be staged over five years. This will be managed by releasing a set number of taxi licenses in Darwin and Alice Springs each year via a ballot.

10. Will the Northern Territory Government lift the cap on taxi licenses in the Northern Territory? If so, when? If not, please provide the reasoning for this decision.

Refer to response 9.