



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Endre Kovacs

Chairperson

ACT Taxi Plate Owners Association (ACTTPOA)

secretary@acttpoa.com.au

Dear Mr Kovacs,

Thank you for your follow-up letter about increasing the ACT Government's annual taxi lease fee.

The ACT Government continues to value the important contribution that the taxi industry makes to the ACT community.

The ACT Government has recognised the difficulties faced by the taxi industry and has delivered a range of measures to support local business and industry over the past three years. This included waiving government-leased taxi plate fees for 12 months, and providing a one-off payment of up to \$5,000 to taxi operators who leased their taxi plates from private owners. More recently, maximum fares have been permitted to increase by 6.3% in line with CPI and provided extensions to the legislated taxi vehicle age and use requirement for operators facing delays for new vehicles.

As I have advised before, the ACT Government considers taxi plates to be a community asset that delivers essential services to the community rather than an exclusive investment product.

In my previous correspondence in February 2023, and during the meeting with ACTTPOA in November 2022, I noted the need for supporting evidence on how an increase to taxi lease fees would result in improved benefits to the broader community. There is not currently a clear argument, within ACTTPOA's proposal, on how such an increase would result in improved benefits for the community. Until sufficient justification is demonstrated, I am unable to consider ACTTPOA's proposal further.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

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