

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)

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Dear Mr Kovacs

Thank you for your letter requesting clarification on the current NSW-ACT taxi cross-border arrangements.

ACT legislation permits NSW taxis operating in the ACT, in some instances. Under sections 221O (Exemption for NSW bookable vehicles – ACT pick up, drop off **outside** ACT region), and 221P (Exemption for NSW bookable vehicles – ACT pick up, drop off **inside** ACT region) of the [Road Transport \(Public Passenger Services\) Regulation 2002](#), there are exemptions for NSW taxis picking up and dropping off passengers both outside and inside the ACT region. Under section 221O(1), NSW taxi operators are exempt if:

- (a) the hiring is booked via a Wheelchair Taxi Booking Service, or a transport booking service; and
- (b) the hiring starts in the ACT and finishes outside the ACT region; and
- (c) the person is authorised to operate a taxi service, and provide that kind of hiring, under NSW law; and
- (d) the person operates the service from an address outside the ACT region.

The same exemptions outlined under sections 221O(1)(a)-(c) are also present under section 221P(1)(a)-(c), with additional exemptions stating that taxi operators are also exempt if:

- (d) the person has notified the road transport authority of the person's intention to operate a taxi service in the ACT; and
- (e) the person operates the service from an address inside the ACT region; and
- (f) any additional exemption criteria determined by the road transport authority under subsection (4)(a) are satisfied; and
- (g) any exemption conditions determined by the road transport authority under subsection (4)(b).



Sections 221P(4)(a)-(b) allow the road transport authority to determine additional exemption criteria and conditions.

The [Road Transport \(Public Passenger Services\) Additional Exemption Criteria and Exemption Conditions for NSW Bookable Vehicles Determination 2016](#) also contains additional exemptions for NSW taxis with prescribed plates – as follows:

- For a taxi that is a wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT), any hiring originating in the ACT must be booked via the ACT WAT Transport Booking Service.
- The maximum fares payable for a taxi hiring originating in the ACT are as determined by the Minister under section 60 of the *Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Act 2001*.

Regulatory functions for NSW taxis operating in the ACT under this exemption is managed by Access Canberra. If you hold concerns about non-compliance, please contact Access Canberra via email taxiservices@act.gov.au.

TCCS understand that ACTTPOA have also raised these concerns informally with Access Canberra who have provided you with information that there are a maximum of 20 NSW taxi plates that meet the eligibility criteria under the exemption.

It is our understanding that the recent taxi reforms in NSW will not impact the ACT as all new NSW taxi licences do not meet the exemption criteria to openly operate in the ACT. For further information about the NSW taxi reforms, please visit www.pointtopoint.nsw.gov.au/.

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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