

# ACT Taxi Plate Owner's Association Inc.

A registered association of ACT Perpetual Taxi Plate License Holders  
QUALITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN THE ACT

Office of Chris Steel MLA  
Labor Member for Murrumbidgee  
Minister for Transport and City Services Minister for Skills Special  
Minister of State ACT Legislative Assembly GPO Box 1020,  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Honourable Minister,

## **Re: Urgent Request for Financial Assistance through ACT State Government Buyback of Perpetual Taxi Licences**

I write to you as the Chairperson of the ACT Taxi Plate Owners Association (ACTTPOA) to express our deep concerns regarding the dire financial situation faced by taxi plate owners in the ACT (Australian Capital Territory) since the implementation of the 2015 ACT Reforms. We urgently seek your support and intervention through the establishment of an ACT State Government buyback program for perpetual taxi licences, providing much-needed financial relief to affected taxi plate owners.

The introduction of the 2015 ACT Reforms has had a devastating impact on the financial stability of taxi plate owners in our region. A significant consequence of these reforms has been the sharp decrease in the value of ACT Government tax leases, plummeting from over \$20,000 to a mere \$5,000 per annum. There has been a knock-on effect on perpetual annual plate lease payments, which are now forced to be on par with those of the government.

In addition, this reset of the taxi market has particularly affected owners of perpetual taxi licences, leading to a dramatic decline in their value from \$300,000 to a distressing \$35,000. The severe devaluation of perpetual taxi licences has had far-reaching implications, especially for retirees who relied on their superannuation and pensions invested in these licences. These hardworking individuals envisioned a secure and stable future for themselves and their families, but the unexpected devaluation of their assets has shattered their financial security, leaving them in a state of distress and uncertainty. Many plate owners have resorted to working excessively long hours, to meet the exorbitant financial repayment

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obligations associated with their plates. It is deeply unjust that these dedicated individuals should bear the brunt of a government decision and suffer such adverse consequences.

Furthermore, the devaluation of perpetual taxi licences has resulted in vulnerable families losing their life savings, jeopardising their present circumstances and future prospects. The financial losses suffered by these families have caused immense hardship and instability, exacerbating their already precarious situations.

In light of these circumstances, we implore you to consider the establishment of an ACT State Government buyback program for perpetual taxi licences. We believe that such a program would not only alleviate the immediate financial burden faced by taxi plate owners but also restore a sense of justice and fairness to those who have been severely affected by the devaluation of their assets.

It is worth noting that other states in Australia, namely Northern Territory, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia, have implemented taxi buyback legislation as part of their deregulation efforts. The success of these programs in alleviating the financial hardships faced by taxi plate owners cannot be understated. We strongly urge the ACT State Government to follow suit and provide much-needed support to our local taxi industry.

We kindly request a meeting with you to further discuss this matter and explore the potential implementation of an ACT State Government buyback program. We firmly believe that through collaborative efforts, we can find a solution that addresses the concerns of all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We eagerly await your response and stand ready to provide any additional information or support required.

Yours sincerely,

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Endre Kovacs  
Chairperson, ACT Taxi Plate Owners Association (ACTTPOA)  
1 July 2023