Tara Cheyne MLA
Manager of Government Business
Attorney-General
Minister for City and Government Services
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Our ref: C2026/02720

Mr Endre Kovacs
Chairperson
ACT Taxi Plate Owners Association (ACTTPOA)
endrekovacs@yahoo.com.au

19 November 2026

Dear Mr Kovacs

Thank you for your email about perpetual taxi licences in the ACT.

Taxis remain an important part of the ACT's on-demand transport market, and the Government is committed to supporting the delivery of safe, accessible and reliable taxi services for the community.

In recent years, the Government has demonstrated this commitment through several support measures, including the 2020 Economic Survival Package during COVID-19 and broader business support grants made available in 2021.

The Government also granted three extensions to taxi age and usage limits between 2020 and 2024, allowing operators to use their vehicles for longer before replacement was required. Another extension was granted in September 2026 for wheelchair-accessible taxis (WATs) only to assist operators in managing availability issues with WAT vehicles.

A range of incentives that may assist taxi operators who choose to purchase electric vehicles are available, including lower motor vehicle duty for low-emissions vehicles, reduced registration fees under the ACT's emissions-based registration system, and access to low-interest loans through the Sustainable Household Scheme, subject to eligibility.

However, the Government does not have any plans to enter into a buyback or compensation scheme with perpetual licence holders at this time. As outlined in previous correspondence, perpetual taxi licences are privately owned assets that may be bought, sold or leased on the market. Government taxi licences with a six-year lease were introduced in 2006 as an alternative

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to perpetual licences, helping to ensure the taxi industry could effectively service Canberra and meet the community's needs.

As you are aware, taxi operators are provided with the opportunity to lease a pre-approved government taxi licence at a set price or approach the market to lease at the current market rate. This approach provides flexibility and supports competition principles. A perpetual taxi licence may also be sold privately, with Access Canberra facilitating the transfer between the seller and purchaser.

The current perpetual taxi licence framework serves both the industry and the ACT community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your important contribution as a taxi operator in our community.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Sincerely



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for Transport