

13 March 2018

Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands
9th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005



cc. Richard Sellers, Department of Transport Director General

Dear Minister,

RE: Tourism Businesses and On-Demand Transport Licences, Fees and Levies

I write regarding the application of the on-demand transport licensing regime to tourism businesses and the consequent impost of regulatory costs, licence fees and the proposed taxi plate buy-back levy.

Tourism businesses that provide transport services as part of their tourism offering are currently regulated as on-demand transport services, but are unlike the taxi/charter services which are the object of the regulation. The proposed taxi plate buy-back levy has raised considerable alarm among tourism businesses that they would be subject to the levy as a result of being required to have a transport licence, despite the fact that they are not providing a taxi service.

Tourism Council WA (TCWA) strongly opposes the taxi plate buy-back levy being applied to tour operators. TCWA has been advised by officials from the Department of Transport and the Minister of Transport's office that it is not intended for the proposed levy apply to tourism businesses. The regulatory challenge is identifying tourism businesses which have a transport licence and exempting those tourism businesses from the levy.

TCWA proposes Accredited Tourism Businesses be 'exempt' from unnecessary transport regulation, fees and levies. The use of tourism accreditation has proved to be an effective policy and regulatory tool and the State Government already recognises Accredited Tourism Businesses in regulatory regimes such as liquor licence exemptions. Accredited Tourism Businesses are genuine, low-risk tourism businesses which meet high quality standards of customer service. We propose that Accredited Tourism Businesses be recognised as genuine tourism operations rather than taxi/charter services and consequently be exempt from on-demand transport licences, fees and the proposed taxi plate buy-back levy.

TCWA is delighted to present the attached *Proposed Transport Licensing for Tourism Operators* for your consideration and would like the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Hall".

Evan Hall
Chief Executive Officer

