

THE GOOD OIL!

Issue 5 November 2006

NSW Taxi Industry Association, NSW Country Taxi Operators Association, NSW Taxi Council, taxi operators and drivers working together for a stronger NSW Taxi Industry



Information flyer for
team taxi

THE NSW TAXI COUNCIL GETS MORE RUNS ON THE BOARD

The Taxi Council recently met with the Minister for Roads, The Hon Eric Roozendaal to express dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on improving kerbside access for taxi drivers allowing them to legally stop to set down and pick up passengers. The Taxi Council has been lobbying hard on these issues for several years (in some cases many years).

The Minister responded by getting the Taxi Access Working Party together again.

As a result some progress has now been made on a number of issues:

ACCESS TO SOME "NO STOPPING" AREAS

The RTA has installed a trial of "No Stopping (taxis excepted limit 1 minute)" signs on O'Riordan Street Mascot (see photograph).

This new type of sign can only be used in areas where the "No Stopping" restriction has NOT been installed for safety-related reasons (such as near pedestrian crossings, or inter-sections).

If you know an existing "no stopping" location where the signs could be used safely, please email the location details to teamtaxi@nswtaxi.org.au and we will ensure it is given consideration by the relevant authority.



ACCESS TO M2 BUS ONLY LANE

"After seven years of trying we are hoping the Minister will soon allow taxis to use the M2 bus only lane in the eastbound direction on a trial basis"

A proposal is still under consideration to change road markings and signage to allow taxis to use the M2 Bus Only Lane. We are hoping that the Minister will soon allow taxis to use this lane in the eastbound direction on a trial basis. If the trial is successful, we would also request westbound access.

TAXI RANKS IN CBD

The Taxi Council has met with City Council to investigate the establishment of a taxi rank in Darlinghurst Road Kings Cross near the Station entrance. It is expected that this will be approved prior to Christmas. The city has also recently approved the extension of the Bent Street rank into Spring Street between 3.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Mon-Fri. The Taxi Council is also in discussion with the City Council regarding the potential for new taxi ranks in:

- Macquarie Street to act as a night-time feeder rank for the Opera House (the Taxi Council will also ask the Opera House Trust to move a message board displaying finishing times to a more visible location for taxi drivers),

- Sussex Street near Druitt Street to increase capacity for cabs serving Darling Park
- Margaret Street and Jamison Street to try and help alleviate traffic problems on George Street.
- King Street Wharf to try and reduce conflict with buses and parked cars in Lime Street

MAIL ZONES

Following further lobbying by the Taxi Council, the RTA is seeking a response from the Australia Post before giving the go-ahead on changing regulations to allow taxi drivers to stop at mail zones whilst they are dropping off or picking up passengers.

METERED PARKING ZONES

The Taxi Council has also asked the RTA to change regulations to allow taxi drivers to stop in a metered or ticketed parking zone without having to put money in the parking meter or ticket machine provided they are only dropping off or picking up passengers.

DISABLED PARKING SPACES

The NSW Taxi Council has asked the RTA to change the regulation to allow taxi drivers to stop to drop off and pick up passengers at disabled parking spaces. This is because many taxi passengers have mobility problems and if an eligible driver wants to park they will only have to wait for a minute or so before the taxi vacates the space anyway.

SPEED LIMITS

The Taxi Council has asked the RTA to revise the speed limits which seem unnecessarily low on the Anzac Bridge, Moore Park Road and O'Sullivan Road in Rose Bay.

SHARED BUS AND TAXI ZONES

As a result of strong opposition from various stakeholders the RTA will not allow taxis to stop on bus zones. However, we are seeking suggestions from taxi drivers regarding locations where there are long bus zones that are not heavily used by buses outside peak times. In such locations, part of the bus zone may be made a taxi zone at night or during off peak times. Send your ideas or suggestions to teamtaxi@nswtaxi.org.au.

TAXI DRIVER OF THE YEAR 2007

Following on from the great success of the NSW Taxi Council 2006 NSW Taxi Driver of the year awards, we are now preparing for 2007.

Before we get too far down the track with our preparations we are asking all owners, operators and drivers of all taxis belonging to members of the NSW TIA, CTOA and NSW Taxi Council Authorised Networks for their feedback. How we may be able to do things better, maybe more or different awards. How we may be able to make it easier to get nominations or help drivers pass on nomination forms.

*Team Taxi, the taxi industry,
working together ...
at no cost to the taxi driver.*

All feedback is welcome. These are *your* awards, and we look forward to your participation.

Please send all feedback to:
teamtaxi@nswtaxi.org.au, or fax to 93601675.

We thank all those drivers who have sent feedback to us through teamtaxi@nswtaxi.org.au, so keep it coming and if you haven't done so yet, please, have a go and contact us. Even if it just to say g'day.

Remember, the NSW Taxi Council is the Industry's peak body and we have achieved much for all taxi industry stakeholders, and in particular, the driver's of taxis. The front page of this flyer is testimony to this.

Again there is a long list of our latest achievements published in the December issue of Meter.

(Editor's note: Of course there is no shortage of those who will jump in and take the credit for all our hard work, but, that's just the way life is.)

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SECURE RANKS IN THE SYDNEY CBD.

To minimise the risk and maximise the taxi driver and the taxi passenger's safety, extra secure ranks will again operate in the Sydney CBD beginning on Thursday 7th December. We thank the Minister for his support of this great safety initiative.

All details will be published in the December issue of Meter.