



Media Release
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Calls for Fairness and a Rational Debate

The NSW Taxi Council today said the reported violence and abuse suffered by a taxi driver after a traffic incident at Sydney Airport this morning is totally unacceptable by any standards.

“As the peak body representing taxi drivers in Sydney, while we do not condone any unlawful behaviour by or towards any taxi driver, and we expect common decency and respect to be shown by and towards our drivers at all times.

“We know first-hand how hard the average cabbie works, and despite the intense training taxi drivers must undergo, how much effort has gone into understanding the changes and new regulations at Sydney Airport over the past few years,” said CEO, Mr Howard Harrison.

“Sydney Airport has worked closely with the Taxi Industry to make sure any changes are workable and practical, and numerous additional facilities have been built specifically for taxi drivers.

“While the precise details of this morning’s incident are unresolved, it appears to have been the result of flared tempers and something which might have been avoided if saner heads had prevailed. Whatever the cause, it is unacceptable for taxi drivers to be treated with violence and abuse.”

Mr Harrison said the NSW Taxi Council was in constant discussions with Sydney Airport regarding taxi ranking facilities and will ensure this matter is pursued with vigour. Equally, the NSW Taxi Council is currently in dialogue with the AFP, and will pursue any relevant course of action to ensure there is never a repeat of an incident like this.

“We are unable to comment on the actual incident today, but CCTV footage and subsequent investigations are likely to shed more light on the events. Our focus today has been on ensuring the driver has received treatment for his injuries and has been taken home to his family. He will now receive any counselling required for a speedy return to work,” said Mr Harrison.

Media contact: Tracey Cain, NSW Taxi Council – 0411 644 999