

+ COVID-19 Taxi & Limousine Industry Assistance Scheme Guidelines

1. About the scheme

The Queensland Government has announced additional financial support of \$23 million for the taxi and limousine industry to alleviate the economic impacts of COVID-19 and to ensure services can continue to operate.

The taxi and limousine industry plays a key role in keeping people moving across the state and providing transport for people to get to work, buy food or medical supplies, and attend essential appointments. This scheme is designed to provide support to a range of different parties in the industry in recognition of their important role in Queensland communities and to assist the recovery of the industry. These parties are:

- a) taxi and limousine licence holders
- b) taxi and limousine operators
- c) authorised booking entities.

2. Taxi and limousine licence holder payments

- a) Payments of **\$1,000** are available to licence holders for each taxi or limousine licence that was recorded in the licence register and was in force as at 16 June 2020 (**relevant licence**), or
- b) for applicants who have been declared by TMR to be the holder of a relevant licence where the licence has been transferred to another person in particular circumstances.

3. Taxi and limousine operator payments

3.1 Payments of **\$3,500** are available to the person who, on 16 June 2020 was the operator of each relevant licence that had a taxi or limousine recorded in the licence register as stated in it on 10 March 2020 (**eligible licence**). An additional payment of **\$1,000** is also available for the operator of each relevant licence that had a wheelchair accessible taxi stated in it on 10 March 2020.

3.2 Payments will be made to operators, who:

- a) held an eligible licence that was not subject to a lease or a relevant agreement; or
- b) are recorded in the licence register as the ultimate lessee of an eligible licence; or
- c) are party to a relevant agreement in relation to an eligible licence, under which they are responsible for the majority of costs associated with operating a taxi or limousine service (operators who are the licence holder or ultimate lessee and are a party to a relevant agreement might still be responsible for the majority of costs); or
- d) have been declared by TMR to be the operator of a relevant licence and the licence had a taxi or limousine stated in it as at 10 March 2020.

- 3.3** Where costs of operating an eligible licence are equally shared under a relevant agreement: -
- a) payments of **\$1,750** for each eligible licence operated are available for operators who are party to a relevant agreement and are responsible for half of the costs associated with providing a taxi or limousine service; and
 - b) an additional payment of **\$500** is also available for such operators where the relevant licence had a wheelchair accessible taxi stated in it on 10 March 2020.

4. Authorised booking entity payments

- 4.1** Payments of **\$1,500** are available for each eligible motor vehicle that was affiliated with the applicant's eligible booking entity authorisation on 10 March 2020, to a combined maximum of 1,000 eligible motor vehicles.
- 4.2** To be eligible for a payment an applicant must:
- a) have held a booking entity authorisation that was in force for at least the period from 10 March 2020 up to and including 16 June 2020 and had on 10 March 2020 one or more eligible motor vehicles affiliated with the authorisation (**relevant booking entity authorisation**); or
 - b) have been declared by TMR as holder of a relevant booking entity authorisation; and
 - c) have provided TMR with their data report for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2020, required under Section 109 of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2018*.
- 4.3** If an applicant's relevant booking entity authorisation had ten or more motor vehicles affiliated with the authorisation on 10 March 2020, to be eligible for a payment, 70 per cent or more of those vehicles must have been eligible motor vehicles.

5. How to apply

- 5.1** To apply for a grant:
- a) Read this guideline and discuss your application with your financial or business advisors.
 - b) Complete and submit your application and supporting documents to QRIDA online at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au.
 - c) If there is more than one individual associated with a licence you will be required to complete a payment instruction form. This form is available on QRIDA's website at www.qrida.qld.gov.au. This form is to be signed by all parties to the application and provides details of a single bank account to which any approved payments are to be paid.
- 5.2** The scheme will be open to applications until 11 September 2020.

6. How grants are assessed and decided

- 6.1** Upon receiving your application, QRIDA will acknowledge receipt by email.
- 6.2** Requests in applications for licence holder payments or authorised booking entity payments will be processed on application receipt. Requests for operator payments will be processed following the scheme closing to applications.
- 6.3** If your application is approved, QRIDA will remit the grant amount to the bank account nominated in your payment instruction form.

7. Your privacy

- 7.1** QRIDA's Privacy Policy, available at: www.qrida.qld.gov.au/privacy, sets out general information on how QRIDA collects, uses, and discloses individuals' personal information.
- 7.2** The application form for this scheme contains specific information on how personal information will be collected, used, and disclosed.

8. More information

8.1 For more information about this scheme contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email contact_us@qrida.qld.gov.au.

9. Definitions

Affiliated motor vehicle is a vehicle available to be used to provide booked hire services under a booking entity authorisation.

Booking entity authorisation – see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, section 91V (1).

Booked hire service – see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, section 71.

Eligible motor vehicle for an authorised booking entity means a motor vehicle that is:

- a) an exempted taxi; or
- b) a taxi other than an exempted taxi that displays the livery of the relevant booking entity authorisation with which it is affiliated; or
- c) a limousine.

Exempted taxi means a taxi that is not required under the taxi service licence for the taxi to be fitted with a taximeter.

Licence register means the register of licences kept under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, section 91U.

Limousine licence – see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, section 91H (1).

Motor vehicle has the meaning given by the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*, schedule 3.

Operator – see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, schedule 3.

Relevant agreement about a taxi service licence or limousine licence, means a written agreement between a person and another person (the second party) under which:

- a) the parties apportion the costs and activities associated with providing the services of a taxi or limousine under the licence; and
- b) the second party has made a payment to the first party for the right to provide the services of a taxi or limousine under the relevant licence.

Taxi service licence – see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, section 91D.

Ultimate lessee is a person who is a lessee or sublessee of an eligible licence who has not leased their interest to another person.

Wheelchair accessible taxi means a motor vehicle that has the capacity to accommodate at least one wheelchair and the occupant of the wheelchair.