

The new reality of [setting] taxi fares

Dr Ron Ben-David

Chairperson

Essential Services Commission (Vic)

Fare setting will be determined through an open, transparent and public process in which ideas will be debated and evidence tested.

The way the industry engages with the

decision-making process must change.

Taxis are a service, not an industry.

Taxi services must become more attractive to more people at more times of the day at more times of the year.

Above all else, we must remain focussed on two things: Value and Value-for-Money.

The traditional 'cost-stack-and-divide' approach to fare setting will not work in the future.

The relationship between fares and farebox

revenue is becoming less predictable.

The Essential Services Commission must have regard to the financial viability of the industry as whole (and not individual participants).

Eight messages

- 1. Fare setting will be determined through an open, transparent and public process in which ideas will be debated and evidence tested.
- 2. The way the industry engages with the decision-making process must change.
- 3. Taxis are a service, not an industry.
- 4. Taxi services must become more attractive to more people at more times of the day at more times of the year.
- 5. Above all else, we must remain focussed on two things: Value and Value-for-Money.
- 6. The traditional 'cost-stack-and-divide' approach to fare setting will not work in the future.
- 7. The relationship between fares and farebox revenue is becoming less predictable.
- 8. The Essential Services Commission must have regard to the financial viability of the industry as whole (and not individual participants).

Timelines

Review process	Earliest timing	Latest timing
Transport Act amendments (Royal Assent)		28 Jun 2013
Call for ideas paper release		10 Sep 2013
Submissions on call for ideas paper due		8 Oct 2013
Principles paper release		mid Oct 2013
Draft report release	mid Feb 2014	late Mar 2014
Submissions on draft report	early Mar 2014	Apr 2014
Fare Determination and Future Directions	late Mar 2014	late May 2014



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