

Unbooked taxi fare review 2022

Submission received through Engage Victoria

Date submitted: 4 July 2022

Submission written by: Anonymous

From 1 July 2022, we began accepting submissions on our Unbooked taxi fare review 2022: Draft decision via Engage Victoria (www.engage.vic.gov.au). On this website, people were given the opportunity to send us a response to a set of questions we provided. This stakeholder requested his name not to be published.

1. What are your views on our proposed fare adjustment mechanism?

A fare increase of 15% would be more appropriate, in addition to an adjustment to the minimum driver/operator split in the circumstance a driver is on a commission based bailment agreement.

The present minimum driver share is 55% of the fare, however this includes GST which must then be on-paid to the ATO.

A change to the mandated minimum driver share of the fares to 60% from the present 55% will provide a meaningful incentive for new drivers to enter the industry, which is presently unattractive due to the mediocre reward for the number of hours worked, along with the level of responsibility entailed.

2. What is the appropriate threshold for the change in the costs of operating a taxi to trigger maximum fares to change under the proposed fare adjustment mechanism?

The taxi fares have not increased for some time, however other costs have increased. These costs include insurance, fuel, airport fees, maintenance and regulatory compliance. Additionally, the drivers should be paid proportionate to the number of hours worked, with consideration given to a minimum wage to the driver and how this can be calculated.

I believe a bare minimum is that fares increase by CPI annually, and the minimum driver share of the fares be increased from 55% to 60%.

3. We also seek your feedback on the length of time it takes to implement a change in fares. We were previously advised that it could take two to three weeks to fully update the meters and replace fare stickers. Your response will help us decide on whether the price determination can take effect earlier than 1 October 2022.

Most taxis use the Cabcharge meter which is fully remotely updated from time to time. The fare increase on these Meters is achievable with minimum fuss.

Stickers and fare advice notices for passengers can be easily distributed by the Booking organisations such as 13CABS, Silver Top, Black&White can facilitate rapid distribution to all taxis in their fleets, CPV can also arrange to provide a package of stickers to independents a higher percentage of independents can be accessed, at locations such as the Melbourne Airport taxi holding bays.

4. Do you have any other comments on our draft decision?

No response

5. Upload submission/s

No response