



Transport & Infrastructure

The Hon John Ajaka MLC
Committee Chair
Select Committee Inquiry into the NSW Taxi Industry
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Ajaka

I refer to your correspondence dated 5 February 2010 inviting comment on issues raised in evidence given to the Select Committee of Inquiry into the NSW Taxi Industry by Mr Michael Jools, President of the Australian Taxi Drivers' Association, relating to the issuing of wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) licences (as highlighted in the uncorrected transcript which you attached to your letter).

Mr Jools was not clear in the evidence he provided to the Committee whether prospective applicants for WAT licences were being given the information he outlines by Zero 200 personnel or by employees of NSWTI.

I am able to assure the Committee, however, that it is not NSW Transport and Infrastructure (NSWTI) policy to discourage prospective applicants for WAT licences and NSWTI is not aware of potential applicants being "turned away."

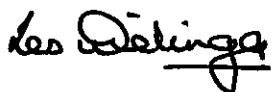
NSWTI assesses each application for a WAT licence on its merits and has, and will continue to, issue these licences to any applicant who can demonstrate they meet the requirements that are outlined in the WAT licence application documents and the current WAT measurement protocol. These documents are published on the NSWTI website.

Information about how NSWTI assesses applications for WAT licences – including applications for new licences on the expiry of an existing licence or applications for additional WAT licences – has been provided in responses to specific questions by the Committee.

I can further advise the Committee that 51 additional WAT licences were issued in 2009, of which 42 were issued to drivers.

I trust the information provided will assist the Committee in its inquiries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les Wielinga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Les Wielinga
Director General

26.02.10.