

## **TCWA Priority News Bulletin (2001.09)** **For urgent distribution to WA Taxi Operators**

### **TAXI PLATE BUYBACK UPDATE**

The Taxi Council of Western Australia would like to inform all taxi operators of the latest taxi plate buyback survey results and National Competition Policy developments.

#### **Buyback Survey Results**

The Taxi Council of Western Australia re-surveyed Perth taxi plate owners. The voting closed on Friday 17 August 2001. Results indicate industry's position has moved from substantial support for the buyback (recorded in January 2001) to the majority not now wanting the buyback.

**Response Rate: 52%**

Number voting "Yes" to buyback 46%

Number voting "No" to buyback 54%

The Taxi Council has advised the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure of these latest feelings and is awaiting a response.

#### **National Competition Policy** *"The industry takes its case to Canberra"*

*(Report published in the Victorian Taxi Magazine "Taxi Talk August 2001 Edition" by the Victorian Taxi Association President Mr. Phil Franet)*

"On 25 June, Taxi Industry Executives, Mr. R Kermode, Mr. J Bowe and Mr. P Franet met with the Prime Minister to discuss National Competition Policy (NCP).

In particular the discussion focused on the damaging public speculation that the industry might be deregulated.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister expressed his strong support for the small-business people who make up the taxi industry. In particular, he noted his understanding of the commitment and work undertaken by the industry in implementing tax reform and competition reform during the same period.

The PM explained the importance of the NCP process in delivering benefits to consumers and recognised that the process has identified a significant number of service improvements to meet that goal.

Following this meeting and discussions with other authorities, the industry executives were strongly confident that the Commonwealth Government is sympathetic to the regulatory and service improvements that have been foreshadowed as part of the NCP review.

This should go a long way to restoring investor confidence in the taxi industry and allow us to forge ahead with further industry investment."

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