

TAXI LICENCE ALLOCATION BALLOT

INFORMATION
FOR
INTENDING
PARTICIPANTS

November 2009 Ballot

**Applications close at 2pm
Central Standard Time on
Friday 20th November 2009**

The Northern Territory Government has **Standard (STD) and Multiple Purpose Taxi (MPT) licences available in Darwin and a MPT licence in Alice Springs**. The NT Government has decided that the licences will be allocated through a strictly administered ballot.

How does the Ballot work?

The ballot draw, to allocate the available taxi licences, will be conducted as a random draw. Each ballot application will be pre-numbered. All application numbers will be entered into the random draw. A record will be kept of the numbers drawn and the order in which they are drawn. Taxi licences will be offered according to the order of the numbers drawn.

The random draw will be made in a manner similar to the televised lotto draws: numbered balls tumbled in a barrel and then drawn at random, one by one, until all have been listed.

Each taxi area (Darwin and Alice Springs) will constitute a separate random draw.

Each applicant will only be able to apply for one of each type of taxi licence (standard and multiple purpose taxi) in one taxi area only (Alice Springs or Darwin). See 2.2 below for further details.

Applicants may request appropriate ballot papers from the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Branch of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, by telephoning **(08) 8924 7580**. Ballot papers may be posted or personally collected from the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Branch, 1st Floor Energy House 18-20 Cavenagh Street Darwin between 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Please note that the ballot papers will only be given to the accredited operator entering the ballot (proof of identity will be required at time of collection)

Any member of the Public is welcome to observe the Ballot Draw.

1. ELIGIBILITY

The ballot for available taxi licences is open to individuals or entities that **have current accreditation as a Commercial Passenger Vehicle (CPV) operator**, in accordance with *Part 3 of the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act*, to operate Commercial Passenger Vehicles in the Northern Territory of Australia.

2. LODGEMENT OF APPLICATIONS

All applications to participate in the ballot(s) for the available taxi licences shall be on the form titled: *Ballot for the Allocation of Taxi Licences*.

All fields on the application form **must be completed in full**. Incomplete, unsigned or non-conforming responses will be considered ineligible. Ballot papers which contain alterations or deletions or are not clear and legible may be excluded from the ballot process.

Applications delivered by hand/courier/post must be in a sealed envelope, marked with the unique Ballot Number (see 2.1) and the closing date of **20 November 2009**, followed by the address.

Each entry must be submitted on a separate ballot application form and placed in a separate sealed envelope.

Verbal or electronic lodgements **will not** be considered.

Applications will be used for this one ballot date only. Applications submitted for this ballot will not be carried forward to any future ballots.

2.1 Ballot Number

Ballot draws are identified with a unique number:-

1109/ASPMPT for a multiple purpose taxi licence in **Alice Springs**

1109/DWNMPT for a multiple purpose taxi licence in **Darwin**

1109/DWNSTD for a standard taxi licence in **Darwin**

The ballot number must be included as the first line of the address (see 2.4 and 2.5), when lodging an application.

2.2 Entering ballot draw outside place of residence or for more than one region.

You will only be eligible to apply for a taxi licence in the taxi area of your normal place of residence, or in the case of bodies corporate, where the business office is located.

2.3 Closing Time and Date

Receipt of applications will close at **2pm Central Standard Time on Friday, 20 November 2009.**

2.4 Delivered by Hand/Courier

Applications may be lodged in the Tender Box at the Department of Business and Employment (DBE) in Darwin or Alice Springs, addressed:-

(Ballot Number)/ 20 November 2009
DBE Tender Box
Contract and Procurement Services
Ground Floor, Enterprise House
28-30 Knuckey Street
Darwin NT 0800

(Ballot Number)/ 20 November 2009
DBE Tender Box
1st floor, Alice Plaza
Corner Parsons Street & Todd Mall
Alice Springs NT 0870

2.5 Delivered by Post

Applications sent by prepaid post must be addressed to:-

(Ballot Number)/ 20 November 2009
DBE Tender Box
Contract and Procurement Services
GPO Box 1551
Darwin NT 0801

2.6 Late applications

Applications received after the stated closing time and date **will not be accepted.**

3. APPLICANTS TO INFORM THEMSELVES

Applicants shall inform themselves fully of all conditions and restrictions related to submitting an application, and the legislative and regulatory requirements for operating a taxi licence in the Northern Territory, including the availability, purchase and fit-out of appropriate vehicles.

4. ALLOCATION OF TAXI LICENCES

The ballot will be a random draw and will take place in the week following the close of applications. All applications will be listed beside their drawn position.

The random draw will be held at 11am on Wednesday, 25 November 2009. Interested persons are invited to attend the random draw to be conducted on Level 13, Mitchell Centre, Beare Conference Room, Mitchell Street, Darwin City.

Successful applicants will be advised by telephone, and mail, of the offer to take up a taxi licence. The offer is open to acceptance for a period of fourteen (14) days from the date of the mailed advice and must be in writing. The offer is not transferable by the applicant. It may be accepted or declined.

Unsuccessful applicants will be advised by mail.

All applicants will be advised within one calendar month of the closing date, allowing sufficient time for all first-round offers to be processed.

4.1 Offer Accepted

Applicants, who accept the offer of a taxi licence will pay all licence fees, vehicle purchase, fit-out and registration costs, and all taxes, fees and charges related to the on-going operation of that licence and must abide by the requirements of legislation in the Northern Territory. A licence will only be issued in the name of the applicant drawn in the ballot.

Acceptance of offers will be acknowledged by telephone.

Applicants should be aware that the current annual licence costs of the taxi licences, which are being offered through this ballot, are:-

- 1109/ASPMPT \$7150 each for a multiple purpose taxi licence in Alice Springs;
- 1109/DWNMPT \$8800 each for a multiple purpose taxi licence in Darwin.
- 1109/DWNSTD \$17600 each for a standard taxi licence in Darwin.

Licence fees are to be paid in advance for the first 12 months and then a quarterly (3, 6, 9 or 12 month) payment option is available.

The Government expects that successful applicants will have their vehicles registered as MPTs within twelve (12) weeks and as standard taxis within eight (8) weeks of the ballot draw date.

No requests for extensions to this timeframe will be accepted.

Failure to comply with the timeframe may mean that an offer is withdrawn and the next listed applicant from the same licence draw will be offered the licence.

4.2 Offer declined

Subsequently, if an offer to take up a taxi licence is declined, the licence will be offered to the next listed applicant from the same licence ballot draw.

Offers declined will be acknowledged by telephone.

4.3 Change of licence category not permitted

A multiple purpose taxi licence cannot be converted to a standard taxi licence.

4.4 No advantage to a particular CPV operator

Current policy requires that taxi network terms and conditions do not give an advantage to any particular CPV operator regarding the ability to apply to participate in a ballot or accept an offer of a licence.

4.5 Acceptable vehicles

New or in-service vehicles which are modified for use as multiple purpose taxis require certification (acceptable to the Department) that the vehicle complies with all relevant Australian Design Rules and applicable Australian Standards.

For further information on this process, contact the Department's Vehicle Compliance and Policy Branch on telephone 8924 7041.

5. INSUFFICIENT APPLICANTS

If the number of applicants in any of the ballot draws is less than the number of licences available, the remaining licences will carry forward to the next ballot date.

6. BALLOT CONTACT OFFICER

All questions and any complaints about the ballot must be directed to the authorised contact person:-

Ballot Contact Officer
Glenda Thornton
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Branch
Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Phone: (08) 8924 7580
Facsimile: (08) 8924 7585
E-mail: glenda.thornton@nt.gov.au

7. LICENCES BECOMING AVAILABLE BETWEEN BALLOT DATES

It is intended that all available taxi licences will be offered at a ballot at least annually.