

FACT SHEET

Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Amendment Bill 2016

On 30 October 2015, the Premier announced that, as part of its broader policy on the sharing economy, the Government would be introducing legislation that would provide for the operation of ride-sourcing businesses in Tasmania.

The Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Amendment Bill 2016 amends the *Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Act 2008* to:

- 1) Clarify the legal status of ride-sourcing service providers and allow for companies like Uber to enter the Tasmanian market, subject to a range of existing regulatory requirements to protect public safety; and
- 2) Allow the Minister for Infrastructure to suspend - for 2016 and/or 2017 only - the annual release of additional taxi licences – in response to the potential impact on the industry as result of the entry of new ride-sourcing services.

The operation of ride-sourcing services under the proposed framework will be subject to a range of regulatory protections, generally consistent with those that apply to luxury hire vehicles, including that:

- all drivers must hold an ancillary certificate, which requires medical, police and working with vulnerable people checks; and
- vehicles comply with applicable vehicle inspection regimes and hold appropriate Motor Accidents Insurance Board cover.

Within the next two years, the Government will be undertaking a wholesale review of the regulatory regime that applies to taxis and hire vehicles to ensure that our regulations can accommodate contemporary and emerging business models, while adequately protecting public safety and consumers' interests.

The review will be aimed at improving outcomes for both service providers and consumers by reducing the overall compliance burden for the industry as a whole, as well as encouraging further innovative commercial activity in the passenger transport industry.

Providing an initial framework for the operation of ride-sourcing – with a range of regulatory protections - will yield important, practical information to help frame the broader reform of our taxi and hire vehicle sector.