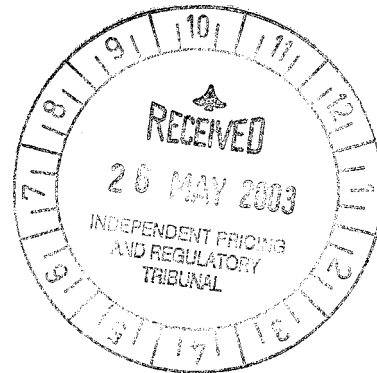


Mr. Thomas G Parry
CHAIRMAN



TAXI FARES

Sir,

I do not believe that there is any justification for Taxi Fare increases for the following reasons.

- A. About Four years ago there was an increase for LPG Gas going up to 49.9cpl, However in the last 12 months gas has on about 30 occasions rose to an amount between 51.9 to 59.9cpl but on average over the year gas was below 49.9cpl. The current price of LPG is between 32.2 to 38.8 well below the amount of 49.9cpl that we have already received an increase for. Therefore if you give an increase for 30 days of high prices you must give a decrease for 335 days of cheaper LPG. The only places that kept there LPG prices higher were the Taxi depots that tried to force the drivers into paying there prices.
- B. There should be no increase for maintance of Taxis because Taxis now do fewer Kilometers per year for higher returns. Therefore where 5 yrs ago a service every 10,000kms was done every two weeks now it would be done on average every four weeks if not longer there for over all maintance prices have come down as everything lasts for the same Kilometers but the Kilometers take longer in time to do because of the increases over the last few years, less Kilometers for more return on the dollar. Means of cause the car has more resale value when sold as well as less complete wear and tear overall.
- C. There is at least one Operator who is offering drivers \$5,000 every three months (conditions apply) this of cause equals \$20,000 per year which means he is making a reasonable return on his business.
- D. If Taxi plates were more affordable fares would not have to be increased every 12 months, because the average operator receive a return in excess of \$1500 per week without even driving the car

My suggestion for a solution is to increase the Flag Fall to \$3.00, decrease the Kilometer rate to \$1.10 and reduce the 20% loading to 10%. This will decrease the average 10km trip by about 15% therefore investors will not earn as much on there return, but as the cost of hiring the taxi will be less and more people will be able to afford taxis and use them the driver will make more money. Please remember the driver is the one who actually drives the Taxi in all weather conditions. Also every time the meter goes up the customers go down / the pay in goes up the driver loses not the operator.

I hope you have a look at this idea and at least think about being fare to both the public and the driver.

Eric Russell
ERIC RUSSELL