CCTV cameras now in Territory taxis

CCTV cameras will be in Territory taxis from today with the first systems installed in Darwin taxis.

Minister for Transport, Gerry McCarthy said the Territory Government’s scheme will see taxi owners receive a $3,000 grant to reimburse the cost of the camera and installation.

“This is a $700,000 investment into making sure our taxis are safe right across the Territory,” Mr McCarthy said.

“They act as a strong deterrent to trouble makers and help police with the evidence they need to enforce the law.

“The CCTV technology works by downloading images of drivers and passengers in the vehicle - if a crime is alleged, police can access footage stored in a data box in the taxi.

“It will catch people in the act and end the he-said she-said of lengthy drawn out court cases which tie up important police resources.

“We’ve responded to calls from taxi drivers and the Taxi Council to make their workplace safer and we are rolling this technology out in more than 144 taxis across the Territory.

“The grant will also be available to minibus owners who don’t already have the CCTV equipment installed.”

Minister McCarthy said the mandatory installation will be phased in over coming months commencing in Darwin and progressing to regional areas in consultation with industry and camera suppliers.

“The Territory Government will reimburse taxis of the cost of the camera and installation within 14 days of purchase,” Mr McCarthy said.

“This scheme builds on CCTV technology in all public buses and at the three bus interchanges at Palmerston, Casuarina and Darwin.

“Coming into the festive season we also have an additional 10 peak period taxis on the roads to help with getting Territorians home safely after a night out.”

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