20 October 2004
Ballot for Taxi Licences in Darwin, Alice Springs

Dr Chris Burns MLA
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

The Northern Territory Government is to hold a ballot to allocate 10 taxi licences – seven for Alice Springs and three for Darwin.

Six of the Alice Springs licences are new – raising the number of available licences in the town from 30 to 36. The remainder are licences that have not been renewed by the operator.

Transport and Infrastructure Minister Dr Chris Burns said the licences will be available only to people who have current accreditation under the Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act to operate commercial passenger vehicles in the Northern Territory.

“Operators must be able to meet the financial and procurement requirements to set up and operate a taxi service in Alice Springs or Darwin,” Dr Burns said.

“We believe a ballot is the fairest way to distribute the licences.”

Dr Burns said the six extra licences for Alice Springs are a response to community and industry demands for more taxis.

The licences are:

- Two standard taxi licences in Darwin;
- One licence in Darwin for a wheelchair-accessible taxi;
- Five standard taxi licences in Alice Springs; and
- Two licences in Alice Springs for wheelchair-accessible taxis.

Applications close at 2pm on Friday 19 November 2004, with the ballot to be held the following week.

All applications must be lodged at the Department of Corporate and Information Services - Contract and Procurement Services office in either Alice Springs or Darwin.

To ensure that the ballot is fair and complies with Northern Territory Government policies, an independent probity auditor will oversee and report on the ballot process.

Another ballot will be held in six months if further licences become available.


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