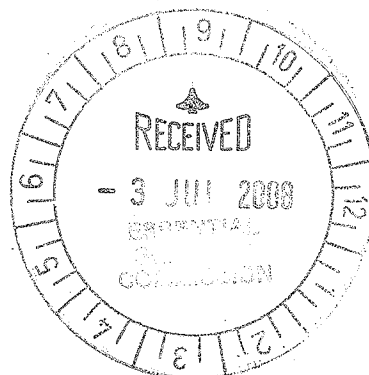


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2 July 2008

Reference:

Mr Greg Wilson
Chairperson
Essential Services Commission
Level 2
35 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Greg

Draft Report On Review Of Taxi Fares

I write in response to your letter to me dated 5 June, enclosing a copy of the Draft Report on the Review of Taxi Fares and noting that comment is being sought. I don't seek to make a submission on behalf of WorkSafe Victoria but I do encourage you in your work.

WorkSafe has worked closely with the Taxi industry over the past 18 months in an exercise to improve health and safety outcomes for all in the industry, but particularly the drivers. That has allowed observations to be made of the dynamics of the industry in comparison with other industries with which WorkSafe deals. The engagement arrangements for taxi drivers for example are not those encountered in general employment in Victoria and present novel challenges in the attribution of accountability and responsibility for safety and injury insurance.

The fare level, structure and income distribution are not matters that on the face of it that have direct health and safety implications. I observe though that improved income opportunities may attract a greater mix of people to the industry from which quality choices can be made affecting service and thereby client satisfaction. Peripherally the manner of payment, such as increased cashless transactions, may also remove or reduce the exposure to occupational violence through robberies.

Thank you for your letter I wish the Commission well in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Tweedly".

Greg Tweedly
Chief Executive
Victorian WorkCover Authority