

To Whom it may concern,

I am a Taxi Owner/Operator in the Newcastle area, I have one vehicle with a T plate.

Over the last 4 years CTP insurance for taxi's has increased by over 400%.

The Newcastle/ Lake Macquarie area (Northumberland Shire), has a relatively small population compared to Sydney's population, 250,000 versus 4.6 million.

Traffic congestion in the Newcastle region is considerably light in comparison to Sydney.

Between Newcastle and Sydney is the Central Coast, which includes Gosford.

The taxi's that operate in the Central Coast area are TC (country) plates?????

These taxi's do a large number of trips into the Greater Sydney area and therefore expose themselves to the dangers associated with Sydney driving. The same applies to taxi's in The Blue Mountains area.

Yet we in Newcastle who more than 2 hours away from Sydney are considered to be Metropolitan????????

Also the hire cars that operate in Newcastle operate as country vehicles, Business (as are all other vehicles in Newcastle).

I would like to suggest that all vehicles that are covered by the point to point taskforce have the same value CTP around the \$2,500 mark.

This would cover all of the risks associated with CTP insurance and offer a more level playing field for all concerned.

In Newcastle alone there are over 170 taxi's where the owners have over \$50 million dollars of their own funds invested.

If the CTP insurance rates keep rising at the rate they are at present most owners will have to cut drivers to reduce their costs, just to remain profitable.

I have owned and operated a taxi for over 5 years and have not had one accident let alone claim against CTP insurance.

There should be bonuses available to those operators that have accident free records without claims.

Surely this will reduce costs and premiums.

If we have considerable reduction in CTP costs more operators will be able to put on more vehicles which will inturn increase point to point transport service to our customers.

Kind Regards

James Madden