

**Daryl Howard**



26th June, 2019

1. Victorian Legislation precludes anyone from getting a DC UNLESS they hold a Victorian Drivers Licence only
2. You can only get a Victorian driver's licence if you live in Victoria (obviously)
3. Over the last 12 months or so the CPVV's data matching system with VicRoads have become automated. This has resulted in VicRoads automatically notifying the CPVV when a driver ceases to hold a Victorian driver's licence (because, in our case, they have moved interstate - "down the road"). This has the flow-on effect of the CPVV automatically cancelling that driver's DC (as they can't hold it without a Victorian Drivers Licence)
4. Every other state except NSW has mutual recognition whereby if a licence / accreditation is issued in one state it is honoured in another state (particularly in the DC space)
5. NSW legislation is currently such that the P2P Commission (the equivalent to CPVV) doesn't accredit the drivers - this is now done by the individual BSPs.
6. The CPVV has a requirement to constantly check against police databases to ensure that the drivers registered have not committed an offence that would make them ineligible to hold a DC. Currently, this system doesn't work with NSW

To whom it may concern.

The above regulations have severely impacted the potential to hire taxi drivers for the three taxi companies that we currently operate on cross border towns.

- 1 Yarrawonga – Mulwala Registered Victoria
2. Cobram – Barooga Registered Victoria.
- 3 Corowa – Rutherglen Registered NSW

The NSW system works much more efficiently than currently in place in Victoria.

Currently as the manager I am approved to obtain all relevant details for a potential driver to obtain a NSW taxi licence. As well as that, the manager or company representative of the taxi company does a presentation to potential drivers through the aid of a manual and power point presentation which is issued by the Point to Point commissioner which covers and deals with all aspects of driving a taxi. (see attached)

For those in the Sydney metropolitan area they attend a training course which covers the above and is run independently by the NSW Taxi Council. The potential drivers then sit and do a questionnaire and must pass to proceed to the next level.

The main criteria is that they have held a driver's licence in any state for 12 months prior. This means that if someone living in any other state who moves into NSW can apply immediately for a taxi licence providing, they have held a current drivers licence for 12 months in another state.

Once this is established and a current drivers record is obtained from that state this information is forwarded to the NSW Taxi Council for processing. The information is then passed to NCC who can process the Police Check in less than 7 -10 days.

The whole process takes no longer than 10 days for the licence to be approved in most cases.

The main advantage in this, is that you can hold a potential applicant and they do not pursue other areas of employment.

Currently in Victoria the process takes anywhere from 4 – 8 weeks. When a potential driver is advised of that they usually refuse and immediately look for other work options. This is a major stumbling block in trying to recruit drivers particularly in the regional areas as most move into a town with the prospect of getting a new start or have relocated to get out of the city hassles.

There is no such problem getting drivers for NSW.

The above system is working very well for NSW and companies are getting drivers to work easily. The system in Victoria fails in this aspect.

Consequently, the major hurdle which has just surfaced is the refusing to grant a licence to any driver who does not live in Victoria. Recently we had to refuse to engage a driver because he lived in NSW. When told his only option was to move to Victoria he politely declined.

My question is, would this be a restriction of trade between the states?

Certainly, I am advised that you cannot restrict a person from working in one state to another. I would like to have this point clarified, as I feel that by doing this, we may be breaking the law which we don't want to do.

Perhaps it's time for Victoria to look at how the system works so well for NSW and incorporate some of their procedures into Victoria and look at working to create a body that can oversee many of these issues which are so common throughout the country.

The benefit to the transport sector could certainly help to improve the industry as a whole and in general the public who rely so much on taxis.

Consequently, as a Victorian Taxi service operating in three towns on the border the regulations which now apply are having a tremendous strain on our business.

To summarize.

Fix the cross-state border issues with licences.

Make the application and processing of licences more streamline and faster.

Set up an independent body who can handle these functions.

Determine if the current procedure is in fact a Restriction of Trade.

I look forward to any comments you wish to make and am happy to make myself available should you wish to discuss this matter or attend any meetings at your request.

Yours faithfully

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Daryl Howard

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