

DR R CHADWICK

ADJUDICATION BRANCH ACCC

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Dear Sir,

As a chauffeur car owner (CH/MH/RH/SV) licences and previously an owner of a country taxi service taking in towns of Gisborne, Macedon and Riddells Creek and surrounding towns, I wish to offer an opinion on the taxi pricing notification system.

What benefits to the customers does it give? Absolutely none.

How so?

Let's give you some examples:

PORT FAIRY FOLK FESTIVAL

PATRONS EXIT THE FACILITY AND COME TO A TAXI RANK. On the rank are 10 cars from Port Fairy, Terang, Anglesea, Mildura, Colac, Kyneton, Anglesea, Torquay, Sunbury, and Castlemaine.

Some of these are at the festival for the weekend but have decided to make a few bucks on the weekend to pay for cots. Others are from nearby towns hoping to cash in. And one is from Port Fairy and this is his big pay day.

As you approach the rank you don't know who is charging what. The TSC will say that the prices must be notified on the outside of the taxi but have yet to advise where. So let's say they are on the front passenger door.

I shall need a calculator to work out whether the flagfall of \$25 for an out of area pick up along with \$2 per kilometre is cheaper or dearer than \$10 flagfall and \$5 per kilometre, or, whether the local taxi (and because they do not have their company names on them I really don't know who the local taxi is) who is using the fares designated by the TSC IS CHEAPER OR DEARER.

HOLIDAYS

Long with this price notification has come the boundary changes allowing the above to happen. Taxi owners have previously opened their business and enjoyed independence from other operators and have concentrated on building up a good relationship.

So now there are two effects as is happening in Woodend now. In Woodend you cannot get a taxi anymore as a SUPREME COURT judge noted in his comments in an appeal against some other decisions made by the TSC. SO now another service is charging to come from Kyneton to Woodend to pick clients up and charging various fees (above flagfall and meter) to do so.

And now it is open for a taxi service on the coast in winter to say it is too cold here and I am relocating for 60 days to another area. His town no longer has taxis and the town he has gone to has too many.