

2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot

Information package for intending participants

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Acronyms	Full form
CPV	Commercial Passenger Vehicle
CVL	Commercial Vehicle Licence
ID card	Northern Territory Commercial Passenger Vehicle Identification Card
MPT	Multiple Purpose Taxi
NT	Northern Territory
STD	Standard Taxi
The Act	<i>Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991</i>

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1. Background

The Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (the Department) will be releasing 6 licences as part of the 2026 Taxi Licence Ballot. These licences to be offered in Alice Springs are:

Alice Springs

- Three standard taxi licences.
- Three multiple-purpose taxi licences.

Applications to enter the ballot will be open from **12 noon Tuesday 4 August 2026** and close at **12 noon Friday, 14 August 2026**.

The intent of the taxi ballot and the tiered approach is to issue taxi licences in numbers-controlled areas through a transparent and fair process which acknowledges longer term taxi drivers who do not hold a current taxi licence in that taxi area and who have a demonstrated commitment to delivering quality taxi services to the community.

Note: in this document any reference to 'the Director' is taken to reference the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport as appointed by the Minister of Logistics and Infrastructure, unless otherwise stated.

2. Ballot structure and criteria

The 2026 Alice Springs Licence Ballot will be conducted using a two-tiered structure, with priority given to applicants who have been actively engaged in the taxi industry for three or more years.

2.1 Assessment of applications

All applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria for the tier selected by the applicant.

Where an application submitted under Tier 1 does not meet the Tier 1 eligibility requirements, the Department may assess whether the application satisfies the eligibility requirements for Tier 2. If the applicant meets the Tier 2 eligibility requirements, the application may be entered into the Tier 2 ballot. Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements for either tier will be deemed ineligible and will not be entered into the ballot.

Tier 1 applicants are given priority in the allocation of available taxi licences. However, all eligible Tier 2 applications will continue to be assessed and entered the relevant ballot process. This ensures that, where a licence offered to a Tier 1 applicant is declined, withdrawn or otherwise becomes available before allocation is finalised, the licence may be offered to the next eligible applicant in accordance with the ballot process.

2.2 Tier 1 (priority applicants)

Tier 1 is open to applicants who have at least three years' experience driving a taxi in the Northern Territory. Applications that meet the Tier 1 criteria will be given priority over Tier 2 applicants. This means that applicants drawn from Tier 1 will be offered a licence before applicants drawn from Tier 2, in the order in which applications are drawn.

Driving experience maybe demonstrated by:

- A report from a communications and dispatch network verifying that the applicant has driven a taxi for the minimum period required under Criteria 4; or
- Where network records are unavailable; alternative documentation, such as:

- taxi meter reports, or
- financial records.

Eligibility criteria for Tier 1

Entry into the 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot is limited to any individual who:

1. Has completed and submitted a 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot application form approved by the Director.

An individual can only enter one ballot i.e. Alice Springs Tier 1 or Alice Springs Tier 2 and only one application may be submitted per person. Where both standard taxi and MPT licences are offered through the taxi ballot, an applicant can only apply to enter either the standard taxi or MPT ballots, not both.

2. Has not held a taxi licence in Alice Springs during the 12 months immediately preceding the ballot draw.

This includes individuals who have an interest as a director or shareholder of a body corporate that holds one or more current taxi licences in the Northern Territory.

3. Holds a current Taxi Commercial Passenger Vehicle Identity Card (CPV ID Card), issued in accordance with section 74(1) of the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* (the Act).
4. Has, to the satisfaction of the Director, been actively driving a taxi for hire or reward in the Northern Territory for at least three years immediately preceding public advertising of the ballot.

For the purposes of this criterion, an applicant will be considered to have been actively driving a taxi where they have:

- a. driven a taxi for a minimum of three years immediately preceding the opening of the ballot; and
- b. driven a taxi on at least 15 days per month for a minimum of nine months in each of those last three years.

5. Has, in the opinion of the Director, a satisfactory compliance history for entry into the ballot.

In determining whether an applicant has a satisfactory compliance history, the Director may have regard to:

- any substantiated complaints;
- the applicant's driving history, including whether a pattern of offending is evident;
- any court matters;
- any infringement notices;
- any warnings or other administrative actions taken against the applicant;
- any suspension of the applicant's CPV ID card and/or H endorsement imposed by the Department or a communications and dispatch network; and
- any other matter the Director considers relevant to assessing the applicant's suitability.

6. Be a resident of the Northern Territory and hold a current Northern Territory driver licence.
7. Be accredited as an operator under Part 3 of the *Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Act 1991* at the time of application.

2.2 Tier 2 (subsequent applicants):

Tier 2 is open to applicants who have at least 12 months' experience driving a taxi in the Northern Territory. Applications that meet the Tier 1 criteria will be given priority over Tier 2 applications. This means that applicants drawn from Tier 1 will be offered taxi licences before applicants drawn from Tier 2, in the order in which applications are drawn.

Driving experience may be demonstrated by providing a report from a communications and dispatch network verifying that the applicant has driven a taxi for the minimum period required under Criterion 4. Where network records are unavailable, alternative documentation, such as taxi meter reports or financial records, may be considered.

Eligibility criteria for Tier 2

Entry into the 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot is limited to any individual who:

1. Has completed and submitted a 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot application form approved by the Director.

An individual may only enter one ballot (that is, Alice Springs Tier 1 or Alice Springs Tier 2), and only one application may be submitted per person. Where both standard taxi and MPT licences are offered through the taxi ballot, an applicant can only apply to enter either the standard taxi or MPT ballots, not both.

2. Has not held a taxi licence in Alice Springs during the 12 months immediately preceding the ballot draw.

This includes individuals who have an interest as a director or shareholder of a body corporate that holds one or more current taxi licences in the Northern Territory.

3. Holds a current Taxi Commercial Passenger Vehicle Identity Card (CPV ID Card) issued in accordance with section 74(1) of the Act.
4. Has, to the satisfaction of the Director, been actively driving a taxi for hire or reward in the Northern Territory for at least 12 months immediately preceding the opening of the ballot.

For the purposes of this criterion, an applicant will be considered to have been actively driving a taxi where they have:

- a. driven a taxi for a minimum of 12 months immediately preceding the opening of the ballot; and
- b. driven a taxi on at least one day per month for a minimum of three months during that 12-month period.

5. Have, in the opinion of the Director, a satisfactory compliance history for entry into the ballot.

In determining whether an applicant has a satisfactory compliance history, the Director may have regard to:

- any substantiated complaints;
- the applicant's driving history, including whether a pattern of offending is evident;
- any court matters;
- any infringement notices;

- any warnings or other administrative actions taken against the applicant;
 - any suspension of the applicant's CPV ID Card and/or H endorsement imposed by the Department or a communications and dispatch network; and
 - any other matter the Director considers relevant to assessing the applicant's suitability.
6. Be a resident of the Northern Territory and hold a current Northern Territory driver licence.
7. Be accredited as an operator under Part 3 of the Act at the time of application.

8. Taxi Licence Ballot process

Taxi ballots are conducted in a sequence of stages.

Stage 1: Applications open

Applicants may obtain a ballot application form from either of the locations listed in [section 4 Collection of Application Forms](#) of this document.

Each ballot application form is assigned a unique serial number that is specific to the applicant requesting the form. The Department records all serial numbers and applicant details for audit and verification purposes.

Stage 2: Assessment

Each application is assessed to determine whether it meets the eligibility criteria for entry into the ballot. The assessment process incorporates a range of quality assurance measures to ensure accuracy, consistency and integrity.

Assessment process – Stage 2A

The Department will confirm that the applicant:

- a) has not held a taxi commercial vehicle licence in Alice Springs within the 12 months immediately preceding the ballot draw, and does not have an interest as a director or shareholder of a body corporate that currently holds a taxi licence;
- b) is a resident of the Northern Territory and holds a current Northern Territory driver licence; and
- c) holds current operator accreditation.

Assessment process – Stage 2B

The Department will confirm that the applicant holds a current Northern Territory Commercial Passenger Vehicle Identity Card (CPV ID Card).

The Department will also determine the appropriate ballot tier for the applicant based on their driving experience and their compliance with Criterion 4 of either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

Assessment process – Stage 2C

The applicant's compliance history will be assessed, including:

- substantiated complaints;
- driving history, including licence convictions and demerit points;

- H endorsement and CPV ID Card suspensions;
- network reports;
- criminal history checks; and
- any other relevant information.

Following assessment, the application and recommendation will be forwarded to the Assessment Panel for consideration.

Assessment process – Stage 2D

The Assessment Panel will review the application and recommendation and determine the outcome.

Where the Panel is unable to reach a determination, acceptance of the application will be at the discretion of the Director with consideration to the intent of the eligibility criteria.

Stage 3: Applications close

Applications for the 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot close at 12 noon on Friday, 14 August 2026.

No extensions will be granted, and late applications will not be accepted.

Stage 4: Notification

All applicants will be advised by email of the outcome of their application, including whether:

- the application satisfies the eligibility criteria;
- the application does not satisfy the eligibility criteria; or
- further information is required.

Serial numbers assigned to eligible applicants will be entered into the relevant ballot draw. Applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be entered into the ballot.

Stage 5: Ballot draw

Following the close of the application period, the Department will determine a date for the ballot draw.

Each eligible applicant will be assigned a unique draw number. Draw numbers will be selected at random until all eligible applicants have been allocated a position in the draw order.

Licences will be offered to applicants in the order in which their draw numbers are selected until all available licences have been allocated.

If an applicant declines an offer of a licence or is otherwise unable to proceed, the licence may be offered to the next eligible applicant drawn from the same ballot.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the ballot draw, which will also be live streamed.

Ballot draw FAQs

What happens if the number of eligible Tier 1 applicants is less than the number of licences available for allocation?

Licences will first be offered to all eligible Tier 1 applicants without a ballot being conducted for Tier 1, with the remaining licences then allocated to eligible Tier 2 applicants through the ballot process.

Example:

Alice Springs has three standard taxi licences available for allocation, but only two eligible Tier 1 applications have been received. This leaves one licence available for allocation in Tier 2.

As Tier 1 applicants are given priority, both eligible Tier 1 applicants will be offered a taxi licence. The remaining licence will then be allocated through the Tier 2 ballot.

What happens if the number of eligible Tier 1 applicants is equal to the number of licences available for allocation?

A Tier 1 ballot will not be conducted. Instead, all available licences will be offered to the eligible Tier 1 applicants. However, a ballot for Tier 2 applicants will be conducted in the event any Tier 1 applicant does not accept the taxi licence or returns the taxi licence within 6 months of ballot draw. The returned taxi licence will then be reallocated to the first drawn Tier 2 applicant and so on.

Example:

Alice Springs has 3 standard taxi licences and 3 MPT licences available for allocation and has received 3 standard taxi submissions and 3 MPT submissions that are all eligible Tier 1 applications.

As the number of eligible Tier 1 applicants are equal to the number of licences available, all eligible applicants will be offered a taxi licence, and a Tier 1 ballot will not be conducted.

A Tier 2 ballot will still be conducted in the event that the issued licences become available for reallocation within 6 months and eligible Tier 2 applications have been received.

Tier 2 applications will continue to be assessed and entered into the relevant ballot process. This ensures that, where a licence offered to a Tier 1 applicant is declined, withdrawn or otherwise becomes available before allocation is finalised, the licence may be offered to the next eligible applicant in accordance with the ballot process.

3. Collection of application

Application packs can be collected in person by the applicant from the below location.

Alice Springs Ballot:

Personal collection

Motor Vehicle Registry, 337 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs.
Open 12 noon Tuesday 4 August and close 12 noon Friday 14 August.

Each application form is recorded against an individual; it is important to have photo identification at hand when requesting an application form.

4. Submitting your application

All completed ballot papers must be emailed to the below:

Email

Ballot Contact Officer
taxi.ballot@nt.gov.au

5. Lodgement of applications

The approved application forms for the 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot are listed below and are available only from the Department:

1. Tier 1 Application Form - 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot; or
2. Tier 2 Application Form - 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot.

All sections of the application form must be completed in full. Applications that are incomplete or do not comply with the ballot requirements will be deemed ineligible. Application forms that contain alterations, deletions, or information that is unclear or illegible may be excluded from the ballot process.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their application is legible, accurate, completed in full, and accompanied by all required supporting information, including any relevant network records.

By submitting an application, applicants consent to the Department making any enquiries it considers necessary to assess eligibility for the ballot, including conducting its own searches and requesting additional information from the applicant.

Applicants also consent to the Department obtaining relevant records from any taxi communications and dispatch network under which they have operated. These records may be used to verify information provided in support of the application, including evidence of the minimum driving experience required under Criterion 4 of Tier 1 or Tier 2 and the applicant's compliance history.

Applications must be received by the Department no later than 12 noon on Friday, 14 August 2026.

Applications submitted for the 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot will be used only for that ballot and will not be carried forward to any future taxi licence ballot.

Each ballot application is assigned a unique serial number. An example of the ballot numbering format is provided below.

- Alice Springs Tier 1: T1/ASPSTD – 0001
- Alice Springs Tier 2: T2/ASPSTD – 0001

6.1 Closing time and date

Receipt of applications will close at **12 noon, Friday, 14 August 2026**. Applications received after the stated closing time will not be accepted.

7. Applicant's responsibilities

Applicants are responsible for ensuring they are fully informed of all conditions and requirements relating to entry into the 2026 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot.

Applicants are also responsible for informing themselves of the regulatory and legislative requirements associated with obtaining, operating and maintaining a taxi in the Northern Territory, including any applicable fees and charges.

8. Allocation of taxi licences

The ballot will be conducted by random draw on a date to be advised by the Department. All eligible applications will be assigned a position based on the order in which they are drawn.

The random draw will be conducted as soon as practicable after the close of the application period and will be publicly advertised. Interested persons are welcome to attend the draw.

All available licences will be included in the ballot draw.

Successful applicants will be advised in writing of an offer of a licence. The offer will remain open for acceptance for 14 days from the date of the email notification. Applicants must advise the Ballot Contact Officer in writing whether they accept or decline the offer.

An offer of a licence is not transferable.

The Department will notify all applicants of the ballot results once the draw has been completed.

8.1 Offer accepted

Applicants who accept an offer of a licence will be responsible for all licence fees, vehicle purchase, fit-out and registration costs, and all taxes, fees and charges associated with the ongoing operation of the licence. Applicants must also comply with all relevant Northern Territory legislation.

A licence will only be issued in the name of the applicant drawn in the ballot.

Acceptance of an offer of a licence will be acknowledged by email.

The current annual Commercial Vehicle Licence (CVL) fees for taxi licences are:

Alice Springs

- Standard taxi licence: \$4000
- Multiple-purpose taxi licence: \$300

Licence fees must be paid in advance for the first 12 months. Thereafter, a quarterly payment option is available for standard taxi licences only.

The Northern Territory Government expects successful applicants to have their vehicles registered as taxis within 12 weeks of the date of CVL approval.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the offer being withdrawn and the licence being offered to the next eligible applicant drawn from the same ballot.

8.2 Offer declined

If an offer of a licence is declined, the licence will be offered to the next eligible applicant drawn from the same ballot.

Offers declined will be acknowledged in writing.

8.3 No advantage to a particular CPV operator

Current department policy requires that taxi network terms and conditions do not provide any CPV operator with an advantage in their ability to apply for, participate in, or accept an offer of a licence through a taxi licence ballot.

8.4 Acceptable vehicles

Vehicles must comply with the [Taxi In-Service Maintenance Standards](#) before being presented for inspection as a taxi.

For further information, contact the Department's Vehicle Standards and Compliance Branch on telephone 8924 7041 or 8924 7214 or email vehiclestandards.mvr@nt.gov.au

9. Ballot contact officer

All questions about the ballot must be directed to the authorised contact person:

Ballot Contact Officer
Sarah Reese
Policy and Reform
Department of Logistics and Infrastructure

Phone: (08) 8924 3818
Email: taxi.ballot@nt.gov.au

10. Licences becoming available between ballot dates

Should any of the licence issued under the 2026 Alice Springs Licence Ballot be returned within six months of the ballot draw, it may be offered to the next eligible application drawn from the same ballot.

Any licence returned after the six-month period will be added to a pool of licences available for future taxi licence ballots, should there be an ongoing need to conduct a taxi ballot.