

2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballots

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 Minister for the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure approved the removal of the cap on taxi licences in Alice Springs and Darwin. The removal of the cap will be implemented through an annual staged process over five years (until 2026) via a ballot allocation process. If it becomes apparent within the five year timeframe that there is no further demand or eligible applicants, the cap will be removed;

The Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (the Department) will be releasing 18 licences for the 2024 taxi ballots. These licences comprise of the following in each specified region.

Alice Springs

- Five standard taxi licences.

Darwin

- 13 standard taxi licences.

Applications to enter the ballots will be open from **Monday, 23 December 2024** and will close at **4pm, Friday, 31 January 2025**.

The ballot draw date will be determined following the application close date, once the Department has completed assessing all received applications.

2. Ballot structure and criteria

The 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballots will be conducted in a two-tiered structure with priority being given to persons who have been active in the taxi industry for three or more years.

2.1 Tier 1 (priority applicants)

Tier 1 is open to applicants who have experience driving a taxi in the NT for a minimum of three years. Applications that meet the Tier 1 criteria will take priority over Tier 2 (subsequent applicants). This means that the drawn applicants of Tier 1 will first be offered a licence before the drawn applicants of Tier 2, in the order that applications are drawn in.

Driving experience can be demonstrated by providing a report from a communications and dispatch network verifying they have driven a taxi for the minimum amount of time declared in Criteria 4. In cases where network records are unavailable, alternative documentation, such as taxi meter reports or financial records, may be considered.

The eligibility criteria for entry into the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballots is limited to any individual who:

1. Has completed and submitted a 2024 Alice Springs or Darwin taxi ballot application form of a type approved by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (the Director).

An individual can only enter one ballot (i.e. Darwin or Alice Springs) and cannot submit multiple applications (i.e. one application per person).

2. Has not held a commercial vehicle licence to operate a taxi in Alice Springs or Darwin for at least 12 months prior to the drawing of the ballot.

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 NT.

3. Is the holder of 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 NT for at least 3 years prior to the opening of the ballot. Actively driving is determined using the below guidelines:
 - a. driving a taxi for a minimum of three years (prior to the opening of the ballot); and
 - b. has driven at least 15 days per month for nine months of every year for a minimum of the last three years prior to ballot applications opening.
5. Has, in the opinion of the Director, a satisfactory compliance history for entry into the ballot.
Satisfactory compliance history to be determined by using the below guidelines:
 - any substantiated complaints;
 - driving history and whether the applicant has shown a pattern of offending;
 - court matters;
 - infringement notices;
 - warnings and other administrative actions taken against the applicant;
 - ID card and/or 'h' endorsement suspensions issued by the Department or Network; and
 - any other matter deemed relevant in determining the character of an applicant by the Director.
6. Is a resident in the NT and holds a NT drivers' licence.
7. Is currently accredited as an operator under Part 3 of the Act.

2.2 Tier 2 (subsequent applicants):

Tier 2 is open to applicants who have experience driving a taxi in the NT for a minimum of 12 months. Applications that meet the criteria of Tier 1 will take priority over Tier 2. This means that the drawn applicants of Tier 1 will first be offered a taxi licence before the drawn applicants of Tier 2, in the order that applications are drawn in.

Driving experience can be demonstrated by providing a report from a communications and dispatch network verifying they have driven a taxi for the minimum amount of time declared in Criteria 4. In cases where network records are unavailable, alternative documentation, such as taxi meter reports or financial records, may be considered.

The eligibility criteria for entry into the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin taxi ballots is limited to any individual who:

1. Has completed and submitted a 2024 Alice Springs or Darwin taxi ballot application form of a type approved by the Director.
An individual can only enter one ballot (i.e. Darwin or Alice Springs) and cannot submit multiple applications (i.e. one application per person).
2. Has not held a commercial vehicle licence to operate a taxi in Alice Springs or Darwin for at least 12 months prior to the drawing of the ballot.
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 NT.
3. Is the holder of 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 NT for at least 12 months prior to the opening of the ballot. Actively driving is determined using the below guidelines:
 - a. has driven a taxi for a minimum of 12 months (prior to the opening of the ballot); and
 - b. has driven at least one day per month for nine months of every year for a minimum of the last 12 months prior to ballot applications opening.
5. Has, in the opinion of the Director, a satisfactory compliance history for entry into the ballot. Satisfactory compliance history to be determined by using the below guidelines:
 - any substantiated complaints;
 - driving history and whether the applicant has shown a pattern of offending;
 - court matters;
 - infringement notices;
 - warnings and other administrative actions taken against the applicant;
 - ID card and/or 'h' endorsement suspensions issued by the Department and Network; and
 - any other matter deemed relevant in determining the character of an applicant by the Director of Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport (Executive Director Transport Safety and Services).
6. Is a resident in the NT and holds a NT drivers' licence.
7. Is currently accredited as an operator under Part 3 of the Act.

3. How does a ballot work

Taxi ballots are conducted in a sequence of stages.

Stage 1: Applications open

Applicants can request a ballot application from two locations listed under [section 4](#) of this document. Ballot applications are assigned a unique serial number and is specific to the applicant that has requested the application. All serial numbers and applicants are recorded by the Department.

Stage 2: Assessment

Each application is thoroughly assessed to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria. The process involves a comprehensive evaluation, incorporating multiple quality assurance measures to maintain accuracy, consistency and integrity.

1) Assessment process – Stage 2A:

Confirmation that the applicant;

- a) has not held a commercial vehicle licence in Alice Springs or Darwin within in the last 12 months, nor has any interests (as a shareholder or Director) of a body corporate that does already hold a taxi commercial vehicle licence;
- b) is a resident of the NT and holds a NT driver licence; and
- c) holds current operator accreditation.

2) Assessment process – Stage 2B: Confirmation of NT CPV ID card requirements. Department staff will identify the correct tier to allocate the applicant to, depending on the applicant's driving experience timeframes, in accordance with conditions 4 of Tier 1 and Tier 2 (refer to [section 2.1](#) and [2.2](#) of this document).

- 3) **Assessment process – Stage 2C:** Assessment of the applicant’s compliance history, including licence convictions and demerit points, ‘h’ endorsement and CPV ID Card suspensions and driver profile, network reports, and criminal history checks. The application and recommendation is then forwarded to the Panel for the outcome assessment.
- 4) **Assessment process – Stage 2D:** The Panel assess the recommendation and applications to determine an outcome; if no outcome can be reached by the Panel, the application is then forwarded to the Director Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport for final assessment and determination.

Stage 3: Applications close

Applications for the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Ballot Allocation will close at 4pm, Friday, 31 January 2025. No extensions will be provided. Late applications will not be accepted.

Stage 4: Notification

All applicants will be advised of their application outcome via email (i.e. does or does not meet the criteria, or further information is required).

All application serial numbers, for eligible applicants that have met the criterion for either Tier 1 or Tier 2, will be entered into the ballot draw; applicants who do not meet the criteria will not be entered into the draw.

Stage 5: Ballot draw

Once the ballot application period has closed, the Department will determine the timeframe to conduct the ballot draw.

Each eligible applicant will be assigned a number. These numbers will be drawn randomly, one by one, until all have been selected. Licences will be offered to the applicants in the order their numbers are drawn, continuing until all available licences have been allocated

If a successful applicant is unable to proceed with the allocated license, the license will be offered to the next applicant in line from the same ballot draw.

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

Ballot draw FAQs

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

Licences will first be issued to the Tier 1 applicants, with the remaining available licences being allocated to Tier 2 applicants through the ballot process.

Example:

Alice Springs has five standard taxi licences available for allocation, but has only received two eligible Tier 1 applications, which leaves three remaining licences.

Given that Tier 1 is reserved for priority applications, all eligible Tier 1 applicants are automatically offered a taxi licence. The remaining three licences will then be allocated through the ballot to eligible Tier 2 applicants.

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

A Tier 1 ballot will not be conducted for that region. All licences will be issued to all eligible Tier 1 applicants; this does not mean that the cap will be removed, a ballot will still be held for the following taxi licence allocation, given that the level of interest is sufficient to the number of licences up for allocation.

Example:

Darwin has 13 standard taxi licences available for allocation and has received a total of 13 eligible applications.

All 13 eligible applicants are automatically offered a taxi licence. A Tier 1 ballot will not be conducted as there are no other eligible applicants.

A Tier 2 ballot will still be conducted.

4. Collection of application

Application packs can either be emailed, posted, or can be collected in person by the applicant. Due to the time it can take for your application to arrive via post, it is advised that it is obtained in person.

Application packs may be requested from the below locations:

Darwin Ballot:

Phone or email

8924 7580 or taxi.ballot@nt.gov.au

Personal collection

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Office
Level 2 Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin.
Open between 8:30 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday

Alice Springs Ballot:

Phone or email

8951 5354 or therese.schutt@nt.gov.au

Personal collection

Level 1 Greenwell Building, 50 Bath Street, Alice Springs.
Open between 8:30 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday

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

5. Submitting your application

All completed original ballot papers must be posted or personally delivered via the below options.

Post

Ballot Contact Officer
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Office
GPO Box 2520
DARWIN NT 0801

Personally deliver to:

Darwin:

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Office
2nd Floor Energy House
18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin
between 8:30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday

Alice Springs:

Level 1 Greenwell Building, 50 Bath Street, Alice Springs.
between 8:30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday

6. Lodgement of applications

The approved application forms for the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballot are titled below and are only issued by the Department.

- 1) Tier 1 - Application Form – 2024 Darwin Taxi Licence Ballot; **or**
- 2) Tier 2 - Application Form – 2024 Darwin Taxi Licence Ballot;
- 3) Tier 1 - Application Form – 2024 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot; **or**
- 4) Tier 2 - Application Form – 2024 Alice Springs Taxi Licence Ballot.

All fields on the application form must be completed in full. Incomplete or non-conforming responses will be considered ineligible. Ballot papers which contain alterations or deletions or are not clear and legible may be excluded from the ballot process. **It is your responsibility to ensure your ballot application form is legible, correct and completed in full and that all information including network records are provided.**

In entering the ballot, applicants agree to the Department making its own enquiries (for instance, by conducting its own searches) including requesting further information from the applicant for the purpose of satisfying the Director that the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the ballot.

Applicants also consent to the Department obtaining any relevant record from any taxi network/s you may have operated under. This will verify evidence to support your application (i.e. proof that you have a driving experience for the minimum amount of time identified under condition 4 of each Tier 1 or Tier 2, and your compliance history is satisfactory).

Applications must be received by the Department on or before the closing date of 4pm, Friday, 31 January 2025. Verbal, electronic lodgements or copies of the original application are not original applications and will not be considered unless the applicant can demonstrate exceptional circumstances.

Applications will be used only for the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballots. Applications submitted for this ballot will not be carried forward to any future ballots.

6.1 Ballot number

A ballot application is identified with a unique serial number. Please refer below for an example of the current ballot numbers.

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

6.2 Closing time and date

Receipt of applications will close at **4pm, Friday, 31 January 2025** applications received after the stated closing time will not be accepted.

7. Applicants to inform themselves

It is the applicant's responsibility to fully inform themselves of all conditions and requirements of submitting an application to enter the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballots.

It is also the responsibility of the applicant to inform themselves of the regulatory and legislative requirements of obtaining, operating and maintaining a taxi in the NT, as well as the fees involved in the licensing process.

8. Allocation of taxi licences

The ballot will be a random draw and will take place on a date yet to be advised by the Department. All applications will be listed beside their drawn position.

The random draw will be held as soon as possible after the close of the ballot application period and will be advertised to the public. Interested persons are invited to attend the random draw.

All available licences will be drawn at this ballot.

Successful applicants will be advised in writing of the offer to take up a licence. The offer is open to acceptance for a period of 14 days from the date of the emailed advice; applicants must advise the Ballot Contact Officer in writing of their acceptance or declination.

The offer of a licence is not transferrable by the applicant. The Department will advise all applicants of the draw results once the draw has concluded.

8.1 Offer accepted

Applicants who accept the offer of a licence will pay all licence fees, vehicle purchase, fit-out and registration costs, and all taxes, fees and charges related to the ongoing operation of that licence and must abide by the requirements of legislation in the NT. A licence will only be issued in the name of the applicant drawn in the ballot.

Acceptance of offers will be acknowledged by email.

The current annual CVL costs for the taxi licences are:

Darwin

- Standard taxi licence: \$5000

Alice Springs

- Standard taxi licence: \$4000

Licence fees are to be paid in advance for the first 12 months and then a quarterly renewal payment option is available for standard taxis only.

The NT Government expects that successful applicants will have their vehicles registered as taxis within 12 weeks from the date of CVL approval:

Failure to comply with these requirements may mean that an offer is withdrawn and the next listed applicant from the same licence draw will be offered the licence.

8.2 Offer declined

If an offer to take up a licence is declined, the licence will be offered to the next drawn applicant from the same licence draw.

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 give an advantage to any particular CPV operator regarding the ability to apply to participate in a ballot or accept an offer of a licence.

8.4 Acceptable vehicles

Vehicles must comply with the [Taxi In-Service Maintenance Standards](#) prior to 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
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Office
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

Phone: (08) 8924 7840
Email: taxi.ballot@nt.gov.au

10. Licences becoming available between ballot dates

Should any of the licences issued under the 2024 Alice Springs and Darwin Taxi Licence Ballots be returned within six months of the ballot being drawn, the returned licence may be offered to the next eligible application drawn from the same ballot draw.

Licences returned after the six-month period will be placed in a pool of licences to be offered in future taxi licence ballots, should there still be a need to conduct a taxi ballot.