

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ANOTHER WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXI FOR THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

Southern Highlands Taxis, Hire Cars & Coaches have introduced an additional wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT vehicle) to their fleet which brings the total number of WAT vehicles to five out of their fleet of 21 taxis.

Laurie Stewart, Managing Director of the company said "as a percentage of the fleet the number of WAT vehicles now operated by the company is amongst the highest in NSW. The Ministry of Transport requires taxi networks to operate at least 10% of their fleet as WAT vehicles however the percentage operated by Southern Highlands is almost 25%." The latest WAT vehicle is a current model Toyota Commuter which can carry two wheelchairs & occupants & up to nine passengers.

With an investment of over \$70,000, the introduction of the new vehicle takes the pressure off the other four WAT vehicles & ensures them being available for regular service & repairs together with providing timely service for all wheelchair passengers.

When not used as a WAT vehicle or taxi it can be used as a Maxi Cab carrying groups of up to nine passengers both locally or long distance. For Maxi Cab work, a fare equal to 1.5 times a normal taxi fare is payable which is a big saving on two or even three taxis.

As the official contractor to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the fleet, including its luxury Hire Cars, taxis & WAT vehicles are daily also carrying veterans or their spouses to medical appointments in the Highlands & to long distance destinations such as Sydney, Canberra, Campbelltown & Wollongong.

For any further information please feel free to contact Laurie Stewart on 4872 4801

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