



DEPARTMENT OF
ROADS and TRANSPORT
TRANSPORT DIVISION

1 Collins Street
HOBART, Tasmania 7000

GPO Box 1002K
HOBART, Tasmania 7001

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Inquiries:

15 December 1989

Circular to All Operators of Regular Coach Services.

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its 25 May 1988 meeting with the Bus Proprietors' Association the Transport Commission's representative advised that it was seeking to reduce the Government's contribution to concessions for pensioners and unemployed persons travelling on private bus services in Tasmania. It was indicated at that time that pensioners would continue to be offered 50% discount fare but that the Government's contribution would reduce from 50% to 45% in the first instance and at some later date 40%, leaving the operator responsible for initially 5% and finally 10% of the amount of each concession.

The Commission has been able to stave off this inevitable cutback in Government contributions for 18 months since the proposal was first mooted, but the pressure on scarce Government dollars now requires prompt action to ensure that the availability of concessions is not undermined by reduced overall budget limitations.

Accordingly, the matter was again raised at the most recent meeting of the Association on 23 November 1989, at which time the Commission representative advised that the Government would discount its re-imbusement of pensioner concession fares incurred after 1 January 1990 by 10% and 20% after 1 January 1991. Further details of the mechanism to be applied are available from the Finance Branch; contact Mr. I. Darcy, (002) 389230.

My purpose in conveying this news to you at this time is both to alert you to the change and to indicate the Commission's preparedness to consider applications for increased overall fares in the near future to compensate for the loss of revenue occasioned by this change in practice.

This indication however, should not be interpreted as approval to immediately change the fares approved for your particular coach services.

Warwick Counsell,
DIRECTOR (TRANSPORT REGULATION).



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13 July 1990

Circular to Coach Operators

PENSIONER AND UNEMPLOYED CONCESSION RE-IMBURSEMENTS

The Minister for Roads and Transport, Mr. K.W. Wriedt, today announced a series of measures to contain Government costs in the transport area. Included in his announcement was a decision to reduce the Government contribution for pensioner and unemployed travel on private bus services from 45% to 35%, effective immediately.

I apologise for not being able to give you advance notice of this announcement but I am writing now to advise you formally and to suggest a strategy for ensuring the orderly introduction of the new arrangements, viz -

1. The fares which may be charged on private bus services in Tasmania are required to be approved by the Commission, and until a new fare is approved you are obliged to continue to charge existing rates.
2. The Commission has determined that it wishes to retain the pensioner and unemployed concession fare as 50% of the adult fare.
3. The Commission is prepared to approve requests for up to 5% increase in the adult fare to enable private operators to maintain their fare revenue.

If you wish to seek a swift approval of a new fare structure you should write to the Acting Manager (Vehicle Licensing) as soon as practicable.

No particular form is required. Alternatively, you may choose to absorb the shortfall in revenue until the next round of fare adjustments due in September 1990.

Once again I apologise for the short notice.

Yours sincerely,

Warwick Counsell,
DIRECTOR (TRANSPORT REGULATION).