

Your Worship and Councillors.

I am representing the Wellington Regional Branch of the New Zealand Taxi Federation and Wellington Combined Taxis.

We fully understand the reasons for the proposed changes to Bye Laws relating to parking of taxis on pay parking spaces.

It is self evident that if shoppers and people going about business in the City cannot do so conveniently then they will take their business elsewhere and we all lose.

The primary cause of the instant problem is the over supply of taxis in the city which means that taxi stands are over loaded for most of the day and although the Council is the roads authority it has no power to control the number of taxis using city streets and stands. Nor can the Council provide enough taxi stand space to accommodate the current number of taxis in the city.

We cannot logically oppose what is the only response the Council has to the inconsiderate if not unlawful use of pay parking spaces.

Our only caveat is that taxis must be allowed to pick up people who have ordered taxis from where they order a taxi and to set down passengers at destinations of their choice.

Taxi organisations with modern despatch facilities can confirm that a taxi is picking up a passenger who has booked a taxi and the setting down of passengers is self evident.

Many people who use taxis do so because they cannot walk far and in some cases not at all. It is essential that these passengers are set down as close as possible to their destinations.

It is also logical that taxis and hoist equipped vans picking up or setting down passengers using Total Mobility vouchers are allowed to use disabled vehicle parking spaces for this purpose. It is safer and less disruptive to other traffic for people with disabilities often take longer to board or leave a vehicle.

George Tyler