



📷 Joanne Krushka is one of Townsville's new Uber drivers. Picture: Evan Morgan

News

Uber drivers gearing up for arrival of service in Townsville on March 16

DOMANII CAMERON, Townsville Bulletin

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Uber is driving Townsville residents into new employment with locals lining up to get behind the wheel for the global phenomenon.

The company will launch its [ride-sharing service in Townsville on March 16](#), and more than 50 residents have submitted driver authorisation applications to the Department of Transport in a bid to become an Uber employee.

Grandparent Joanne Krushka will be one of the city's first drivers, and she said it would be a great way to make some extra money.

"I've got quite a bit of spare time since my son graduated from school," she said.

“I think it would be a great way to have a chat to people.”

Ms Krushka, who has three children, said she could not wait to get on the road.

“It all just sounds so well organised and driver friendly,” she said.

“A lot of people are still quite sceptical about it, but I was so impressed by how organised they are.

“It’s focused on safety for the drivers. I’m just excited for it and can’t wait to start.”

Ms Krushka said the flexible hours meant she was able to prioritise her family.

“You do exactly what you want to do. I can do a few hours, click the app and say I’m available, and that is basically it,” she said.

“I’ve always chosen jobs with flexibility to spend time with the family.”

Daryl Downes, who has also signed up to be a driver, said he had been unemployed for several months.

“This has brought me back into employment,” he said.

“I used to be in hospitality and I’m probably getting a bit old for that.”

Mr Downes also said the flexible hours were appealing.

“I’m a bit of a night owl so I’ll be available most nights,” he said.

“It’s a great concept and I think it will work quite well.

“I don’t think it will kill the cabs, it’s a way of (boosting) competition.”

Mr Downes said being an Uber driver appealed to him more than “sitting in an office”.

“It’s a way to meet nice people and you don’t have to pick up the drunks off the streets.

“It’s a win-win situation.”

Uber Queensland general manager Alex Golden said there had been plenty of interest from potential drivers in Townsville.

“Locals are keen to earn extra money on their own schedule and dozens of driver-partners will be ready to hit the road from day one,” he said.

“We’re really pleased to bring the benefits of ride-sharing to Townsville and can’t wait to see how local riders respond to this reliable and affordable way to get around their city.”