



The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee Parliament House Cnr George St and Alice St Brisbane Queensland, 4000

9 February 2016

Dear Committee Members

RE: INFORMATION REQUEST - TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (TAXI SERVICES) AMENDMENT BILL 2015

Further to your request for information please find one USB data stick containing photographic and video evidence of illegal taxis in Brisbane queuing on taxi ranks and plying for hire, at times standing in queues with legal taxis; illegal taxis standing on self-established ranks plying for hire; and illegal taxis picking up taxi fares from taxi ranks. There is also evidence provided demonstrating illegal taxis causing excessive congestion in and around night club precincts in the early hours of Sunday morning.

It is apparent that illegal taxis do not just comprise of uber drivers, but increasingly also involve unaligned drivers who are simply seeking to undertake taxi work by also touting and accepting customer hails and utilising taxi ranks, in an attempt to create the illusion of legitimacy by plying for hire on or around taxi ranks. Taxi Council of Queensland ("TCQ") staff have witnessed, on many occasions, illegal taxi drivers accepting cash transactions with paying customers, clearly operating outside of the uber system, not to mention Queensland law: TCQ staff are prepared to sign affidavits in this regard.

Some of the illegal taxi ranks being utilised by illegal taxis include:

- 1. Eagle Street in "No Parking Zones," outside night clubs.
- 2. Warner Street in the bus zone.
- 3. Brunswick Street (South), facing south opposite the legal taxi rank.
- 4. McLachlan Street outside night clubs.

Ironically, the illegal rank located in McLachlan Street has been the subject of disagreement between the Brisbane City Council ("BCC") and the TCQ. TCQ has made several applications to BCC over a number of years to have illegal rank mandated as a legal taxi rank. BCC has determined that the proposed rank location is dangerous, as a result of traffic coming off the Story Bridge.

TCQ holds grave safety concerns regarding the practice of illegal taxis plying for hire in the ways described. In short, all illegal taxis including uber vehicles are not tracked by GPS. Typically, when uber drivers acquire this type of work they turn off their mobile phones, preventing uber from tracking their vehicle. In addition to this, no illegal taxi has a government approved security camera system, further weakening the protections for customers. TCQ believes that customers accepting illegal taxi services from illegal taxis with no vehicle tracking or security camera systems, utilising unmarked vehicles, pose an unacceptable risk to the community.

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee will find attached to this submission two example of sexual assault involving women being picked up in the close vicinity of taxi ranks which involved unmarked illegal taxis. TCQ believes that the Committee should also take note of previous sexually assaults and murders potentially involving unmarked vehicles on or around taxi ranks. Two of the more famous were the Jinker Track murder, where a young intoxicated lady was placed by friends in an unmarked vehicle thought to be a taxi, on the corner of Herschel and Roma Streets. The second involve another unmarked vehicle thought to be a taxi and the young lady was taken to a pine forest, strapped up with dog collars and raped.

I trust that this satisfies your requirements.

Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the office on 3434 2100.

Yours faithfully

Max McBride President **From:** martyord1958@gmail.com [mailto:martyord1958@gmail.com]

Sent: 07 August 2015 14:50

To: Bill Parker

Subject: Another person jumping into a car

Sexual assault investigation, Cannon Hill

Admin on Aug 5, 2015 @ 2:39pm



Detectives from the Dutton Park Criminal Investigation Branch investigating the sexual assault of a 24-year-old woman in a Cannon Hill carpark on Sunday morning, August 2 have released a comfit image of a man who may be able to assist with their investigations.

The woman was walking alone around Eagle Street near Customs House in the Brisbane CBD about 3.30am on Sunday and accepted a lift by a man driving a silver car.

He then drove her to the car park of a Princess Street bowls club in Cannon Hill and produced a knife before sexually assaulting her.

The woman fled and flagged down passing motorists who were able to stop and provide her with assistance.

The man has been described as Caucasian with sandy hair that is short on the side and longer on the top, chiseled features with thin lips and a normal build. He was wearing denim jeans and a dark t-shirt or long-sleeved shirt with the sleeves rolled up.

Detectives are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed the lone woman with long blonde hair getting into a silver vehicle about 3:30am on Sunday morning or the vehicle parked in the Cannon Hill Bowls Club around 3:50am to report the matter to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or Dutton Park detectives on 3020 8150.

Investigations are continuing.

Sent from Surface

Anyone with information which could assist with this matter should contact Crime Stoppers anonymously via 1800 333 000 or crimestoppers.com.au 24hrs a day.

Crime Stoppers is a registered charity and community volunteer organisation working in partnership with the Queensland Police Service.

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