

REFERENCE - Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 is to increase certain penalties in the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 to deter illegal taxi operators.

**Reasons for embracing new transport technologies and not penalising the future.**

For the last 5 years we have seen the rise in the sharing economy and why wouldn't we. We are more connected than ever. Six degrees of separation seem to be decreasing with the staggering growth in social media, quickening internet speeds, great maps and the simplicity of travel.

There was no secret that Uber was coming in one form or another. Traditional Taxi cab firms have missed the boat. It didn't have to happen that way. If they were pro-active they would have identified the need for a simple to use phone app that offered people a simple way to get around. They can still do that, however it will require a conscious effort and it would seem that the taxi cab companies are too entrenched in the past to consider moving forward.

So, why do I like Uber?

I love the security of Uber. Yes the security.

1. I know when the car is coming so I can wait in safety or under cover until the moment it arrives.
2. I know who is driving the car, the type of car, the registration number of the car and I have a record of it all on my phone.
3. I know before it arrives how much it will cost and at that point I can choose to go or not to go.
4. No money changes hands in the car. (This is a big one.) There is no fishing around for money or cards and trying to use eftpos machines that are regularly not working properly. The driver is secure as he isn't carrying money and there are no arguments about the fare.
5. Because no money changes hands at the drop off, there are no delays at the drop off point. This makes it safer and reduces congestion in busy places.
6. I can use Uber to ferry other people around on my account, e.g. my children or parents. I can do this safe in the knowledge of how much it will cost, actually where the car is at any time and when they arrived at the designated destination.

Uber also costs less than a cab as it is not encumbered with an outdated mode of operation.

The future of transportation is not a long wait for a car that may or may not arrive driven by an unidentified person attempting to take money for a ride that may or may not have taken you the right way for the right price.

Uber or any of the hundreds of companies like them that will spring up need considered, simple rules by which they can engage the public. Make no mistake the sharing economy is here, it is simple, makes sense, will reduce waste and encourage a fuller utilisation of resources.

Mr Katter is proposing that we go back in time and hang on to old systems. Technology and new methods of communication are advancing at a rapid rate. If we ignore, or worse stop, these advances then when it is time to catch up the costs become prohibitive.

I can be contacted for further comment.

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