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Research Director – Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources Committee

Re "Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015"

*As a very concerned Taxi Owner I would like to see this bill succeed.*

*The liberalisation of markets can certainly be a good thing and new participants are welcome. History shows that with increased density of participants the strong survive and the weak leave. Often it is the big corporates with big pockets that win and once consolidated in their favour they use their monopoly status to exploit the customers and their employees. No one but them wins. Companies adept at using surge pricing (Uber) would have a free run.*

*On a level playing field with all participants abiding by the law, paying taxes and being subject to the same compliance and regulatory regime it can be fair game. There will still be winners and losers but it is the hardest workers and the smartest operators that do well in a free market.*

*Taxis are not monopolies it enables incomes to more than 15000 small businesses all competing every day. These businesses pay their way in fees and taxes and do not evade their obligations.*

*Taxis operate 24 hours every day and 1/5 of each fleet is wheelchair accessible ie we offer service to all customers the young, the old and the disabled. Uber don't. Uber cherry pick the times, locations and customers that give them the best returns. Taxis make very little profit and it is in the busy times that enable our profits to assist us to deliver services to the disadvantaged.*

*Uber claims it is different .How? Should this, if it were, entitle them to a free run at setting their own rules? They are not providing a ride sharing service as they are a taxi taking fares. Qld Taxis are highly innovative with newer energy saving vehicles, security cameras, a radio contact with the base as well as having an app for booking and despatch. The thing that differentiates Uber is the way it has muscled into markets, refuses to abide by rules and regulations, pays no tax and expects govts to change or delete the rules that don't suit Uber. Uber contribute nothing to our economy.*

*It is hoped that our Qld legislators are aware of the markets (now exceeding half the world) where Uber has tried to muscle in by disregarding all the rules and have now been thrown out. Strong govts don't allow a foreign bully to dictate to them about the rules, nor should they.*

*Uber are masters at using and manipulating social media crying foul when things don't go their way. I feel the tide is turning and most Governments are now awake to the spin, lies and deception that is part of Ubers hymn book. Queenslanders won't even notice when they have gone. I feel sure that other modes of transport eg. buses and trains will benefit from increased patronage which has been in decline since the illegal entry of Uber.*

*We all know that Uber vehicles are a danger being incorrectly licenced and insured and not having any compliance checks. The loss of Driver demerit points is a positive move to protect Queenslanders and keep these drivers from doing illegal work.*

Yours faithfully,  
