Submission No. 19 11.1.10 5 October 2015

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Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

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Dear Sir / Madam

SUBMISSION RE TRANSPORT LEGISTATION (TAXI SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL 2015

I am a self-funded retiree and own a taxi licence as part of my superannuation fund.

I am very concerned about the lack of Government control of Uber and other ride-sharing companies and the lack of support for our existing taxi services – hence this submission.

I am in full support of this Bill for the following reasons:

It appears to me that Uber is totally flouting our laws and to date, nothing is being done to stop it. I have spoken my local member (Hon Mark Bailey) about this and it appears local Government are also sitting on their hands while lawabiding Queenslanders suffer and Uber continue to ignore cease and desist notices, contravene regulation and take their profits offshore (surely a sore point with any Government).

The Queensland Taxi industry has been heavily regulated by Government and as far as safety, security and fare regulation, this certainly serves the public well. My research has shown that Uber vehicles have only a private class 1 CTP insurance and often no comprehensive or public liability insurance (as opposed to our taxi's required class 3 CTP insurance, comprehensive and \$20M public liability insurance). It therefore seems very unfair and illogical that our Government would stand by and allow Uber and the like to operate as unregulated and uncontrolled "cowboys" – not only does it jeopardise the livelihood of the many employed by the taxi industry and the mum and dad investors like myself, it also puts the travelling public at risk and hinders the especially vulnerable, the disabled. Uber provide no vehicles with wheel chair access for example – surely a breach of the Qld Discrimination Act?

In the larger picture, it sets an example that provided you have enough money and enough front to continue to ignore rules and Government regulation you can just do as you please. I do not believe this is in Queensland's (or Australia's) best interest!

The fact that Uber has already been issued several Ceases and Desist Notices tells me that both they and Government are aware they are breaking the law and that Uber have no intention of complying with our laws and competing on a level playing field. Of course it suits them to not pay GST and tax.

The fact that Uber is such a social and legal problem in so many countries of the world says much – it cannot be ignored.

I vote and I expect my Government to act decisively to uphold our laws and to protect our industries and our citizens.

I am amazed that this time consuming and long-winded process is required to make this happen when the likes of Uber are so obviously in violation of the laws and regulations that all Taxis and other public transport providers adhere to, usually at great expense.

Our laws must be in place for all – not just those who choose to do the right thing and I for one expect Government to act immediately to ensure this by passing this Bill.

Yours faithfully

Lynne Terry