

3 October 2015

**Parliamentary Submission**

**Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015**

This submission is made in full support of the proposed Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 to increase certain penalties in the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* to deter illegal taxi operators, by way of providing for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a peak demand taxi permit.

The illegal ride-sharing services drivers have been fined by Queensland transport officers for providing an illegal taxi service. These fines have been paid either by an entity (Uber) or the drivers, which in turn is an admission and/or acknowledgement of an infringement for an illegal act. Furthermore, Uber has instigated compliance avoidance through intentionally blocking calls from our own Transport Officers to avoid further prosecution. These acts clearly demonstrate intentional non-compliance by the illegal taxi service operators and providers.

Effective measures must be implemented as soon as possible to eliminate illegal taxi-services for the safety of the public and best interest of dedicated taxi licence owners. Taxi licence owners have invested heavily in the regulated taxi industry to meet compliance obligations in ensuring public safety in providing legal transport taxi services.

The application of demerit points as per the proposed in the Bill, is one measure that will place direct penalty onto the driver providing the illegal transport service, without opportunity to transfer the penalty to another entity. Current monetary fines have been flouted by drivers with Uber absorbing these penalties because of its wealth, thus allowing drivers to continue to operate indefinitely without personal impact to them. The application of demerit points to the driver will remove the ability to transfer such penalty, thereby acting as a deterrent to the driver.

Kindest Regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted footer]