From:

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Subject: FW: Submissions to the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment 2015

Date: Sunday, 4 October 2015 11:50:52 AM

I wish to express my support for the legislative changes to control illegal taxi operators or companies using apps to illegally gain fares within the taxi industry.

The taxi industry is heavily regulated with cost of doing business very expenses, companies such as Uber are operating within this industry with no approvals from current legislation.

Uber have used the approach of commence trading without authority and then rely on social media to support it once regulations are imposed.

Uber has been banned in many countries throughout the world such as France.

Uber claim they are creating a new industry and not effecting the taxi industry, but if you investigate their operation in other countries, they are proving to be very disruptive.

They claim to reduce traffic, but their drivers cherry pick the time to work, which is normally peak hour. This cherry picking has led to more congestion not a reduction.

London are currently looking to reduce the number of Uber cars on the road due to congestion, as Uber does not regulate the required number of drivers. (source The Telegraph 4^{th} October 2015)

Uber drivers rarely service outer suburb areas.

Uber drivers do not provide for disabled people or wheel chairs. Which I believe is in breach of the Anti-Discrimination Laws.

In most instances Uber drivers have full time work and use Uber to top up their income. These drivers are using the family car not a designated vehicle.

Queensland Taxis do not have these pleasures, we have to keep our cars on the road at all times. Provide service to the disabled and wheelchair clients.

Uber drivers are not required to wear uniforms, Queensland Taxis are required to wear the appropriate uniform.

The current taxi regulation ensures we provide a full security for passengers, Uber does not comply to our standards.

Queensland Taxis are only allowed 6 years form their car, Uber allows cars from 2005 as acceptable. Our vehicles are subjected to regular road worthy checks, this is not the case with Uber.

Uber cars are not fully insured, as required by current taxis.

A major concern to the regulators is unless regulation and restrictions are placed on these Ride Share Apps, there are many other companies starting up in other countries riding on the Uber approach.

Finally a major concern to Governments is Uber Australia owned by an American Company, with current concerns over its tax liability in Australia (source International Business Times 26^{th} September 2015).

As a Taxi owner for 30 years, I ask that you consider your decisions not based on a trendy phone app which is faceless, but look at the industry which will be affected with loss of many jobs and businesses.

Please consider our future.

Noel Thompson

Noel Thompson & Associates Pty. Ltd.