

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Sunday, 4 October 2015 1:30:16 PM

A Bill for An Act to amend the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to provide 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.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing a submission to seek your support in making the necessary legislative changes proposed in this bill to control the illegal taxi operations operating under guise of "Ridesharing" in Queensland.

The taxi industry has been regulated by the Government for a purpose, namely for the protection of community and the industry, arising from problems the various unscrupulous operators and miscreant passengers have created in the past. This occurs in every industry. The regulations have minimised the risk to community.

The taxi industry is made up of over 15,000 small business operators and provides indirect employment across a large range of other industries that help taxis stay on the road.

The Government has given the company Uber which sells the UberX App a 'Cease and Desist Order' because it is facilitating a illegal taxi service. The company has chosen to ignore it and is helping illegal operators pay fines which the Transport Compliance Officers are giving for the illegal act. This has not made an affect to the illegal operators but Uber has emboldened them to keep carrying out this unlawful activity.

Uber which is near \$US60 billion company has apps that fit in with the current Queensland regulations, namely UberTaxi (*which sends jobs to accredited taxis*) and UberBlack (*which sends jobs to accredited limousine vehicles*). This \$US60 billion company could have entered this state and easily paid for the appropriate service licence but they chose not to because UberX is the most profitable and less risky proposition to them (*all of the risk is put on the illegal operators and community*). Uber only gives these options to governments where they think the jurisdiction is strong. What Uber has created is nothing drastically new these Uber apps are just booking apps (*mobile software*) for electronic hails which the the various taxi booking companies (*who abide by current regulations*) have a equivalent to. There are various Australian electronic hail apps apart from the standard booking companies (eg. Gocatch and Ingogo) that work within the current regulations.

If the demerit points amendment is added to Transport legislation then Uber or any other operator of its ilk that promote people to carry out illegal activity to think twice because the companies will be able to pay the fine but will not be able to restore the points. This is closing a loop hole.

If these amendments are not passed then this will give out the impression that if you have enough money you can circumvent any law.

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