

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Submissions - Illegal Taxis Bill
Date: Wednesday, 7 October 2015 9:08:43 AM

To the Committee

I would like to make submissions in support of the Illegal Taxis Bill introduced by Mr Rob Katter MP.

I am the owner of two taxi licenses and note the State's taxi industry is made up of over 15,000 small business operators.

I arrived in Australia as a migrant from Greece in 1970 aged 18 with \$USD20 in one dollar notes and one suitcase. I bought my first taxi license in June 1985 and my second in 1992 and worked long hours for over 20 years to pay the licenses off. I am currently a proud self-funded retiree and, for the last seven years, full time carer for my wife Cathy, who has early onset dementia. The taxi licenses are our major investment. I am concerned about the capital value of my licenses, for which there are currently no purchasers, and my future ability to lease the licenses for a reasonable amount. The earnings from leasing the taxi licenses are our income. There are many stories like mine.

For some time now, the illegal taxi service Uber has been operating in Queensland despite the State government issuing them with "cease and desist" notices. It operates without complying with safety regulations, without paying Australian tax and it openly flouts the law. While the government has enforced compliance and fined drivers some \$1.7 million to date, Uber has paid the fines and the drivers have escaped with no consequences.

Taxis pay significant money to comply with regulations that protect Queenslanders and it is time to create a level playing field and not only support the thousands of small business people that make up the Qld taxi industry - and who pay their taxes and GST - but to protect the traveling public.

I am hopeful that our State government will act to deliver a positive outcome for taxi drivers and for the travelling public.

Yours sincerely,
Harry Rigopoulos
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