

I am a taxi license owner and retiree, whose license is leased to Yellow cabs Brisbane.

I fully believe that competition in all areas of business is valuable to customers and our nation as we follow the ideologies of a capitalist economy. However it has to be a fair playing field. Therefore **companies** such as UBER **should be required to follow the regulations and rules that all other companies in Queensland follow.** Examples in the taxi industry include:

- **Holding a taxi license in order to take part in driving customers for payment.** Rogue companies devalue the licenses of owners, many of whom have purchased one or more licenses over a number of years in order to finance their retirement funds instead of requiring a GOVERNMENT PENSION in their old age. This license lease arrangement helps my retirement living, since I was part of a generation who had to resign from work in order to raise children. *It would have a major impact on my retirement pension if I were unable to lease my license and the license was devalued.*
- **Payment of fees demanded by the government in order to regulate the business and make it safer for the public.** These fees include the Operator Accreditation Certificate; Taxi Service License and Taxi Security Levy. *If UBER doesn't have to pay fees, why should the rest of us?*
- **Drivers satisfying Qld government rules** related to driving destinations, hours of service etc.

A further concern is that while I contribute to the general welfare of the nation through the payment of taxes and fees, ride-sharing organisations such as UBER and the people who work under that banner do not appear to have the same obligations. Without some form of regulation the capacity for government to raise the revenue required to provide services that are used by UBER and the general public is compromised.

I fear for customers who use non-regulated vehicles as they could be putting themselves in danger should a driver not be part of government criminal and safety checks and possibly violent, or a dangerous driver not adhering to safe road rules and regulations linked to vehicle safety. There are already numerous documented cases of cost cutting in the transport industry that has led to death and injury of drivers and other road users because of unroadworthy or vehicles with defects.

When becoming a small business owner in the taxi industry, I did so in accordance with the laws and regulations that existed at the time. Those who are now illegally entering the industry and who do not start up under the same conditions are being afforded a significant competitive advantage. It is of major concern that international corporations such as UBER are prepared to flaunt national and state laws. To do so and not be called to account challenges the whole notion of national sovereignty.

I prefer to live in a safe and secure environment, where people can have a decent standard of living and are able to be part of small businesses. Good governments in the past have ensured this is possible in Queensland and all of Australia. This is indeed part of the reason many occupants of other countries choose to migrate to our shores.

Susan Saxby
