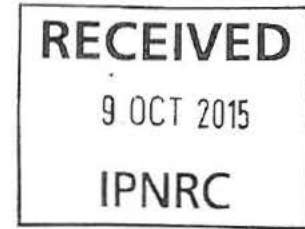


7 October 2015

Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015

We wish to voice our support for the introduction of the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence.

As it stands the existing penalty under the Transport Act for such an offence is the issuing of a fine to drivers of illegal taxi services. Given that the Queensland Government has already issued \$1.7 million in fines to Uber drivers, it is clear this measure has been of little deterrent to dissuade drivers to operate an illegal transport passenger service in Queensland and that further penalties are necessary. We believe the implementation of the demerit points will go a long way to deterring drivers to participate in this illegal activity.

Today the Queensland Minister for Transport announced the Queensland Government has commissioned an independent review of taxi services in Queensland to be headed by Mr Jim Varghese. The final report for this review is not expected until August 2016. It is therefore vital that the recording of demerit points is implemented as a matter of urgency, given that we have to wait 11 months for the Varghese report. Surely we need some action in the interim by the Queensland Government to uphold our laws.

It is of great concern to us that a company from overseas, like Uber, can apparently come to our country and operate an illegal business and blatantly ignore our laws to suit their business model.

The Queensland Taxi industry contributes considerably to the Queensland economy by the purchase of Government issued taxi licences as well as remitting of stamp duty to the Office of State Revenue every time a taxi licence changes hands and by the payment of GST on income which is returned to our state. We respectfully ask the Submission Committee to consider what contributions companies like Uber make to the Queensland economy.

As owners of a Queensland Government regulated Taxi Licence, we welcome the initiative of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 and hope that finally some progress will be made in the upholding and enforcement of the laws of this State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our views.

Yours faithfully



Darryl and Susan Bain

