

**Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 October 2015 3:00 PM  
**To:** Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources  
Committee  
Services) Amendment 2015

Transport Legislation (Taxi

I wish with respect to make the following submission.

It is well and good for government to consider how to improve all aspects of public transport. It is necessary to realise that the totality of public transport as it has evolved needs to be seen as a whole, i.e. where would public transport in any city (including Brisbane) be without trains and/or buses and/or taxis. As an industry we in the taxi industry are aware of this. The government is aware of good public transport service also, and carries responsibility for planning those services. That is a significant point, i.e. the government has regulated areas of public transport in order to ensure that all areas of the public are provided with the good transport it requires. That government regulation is a cost borne by the transport industry through the licencing etc. These costs are passed on to the customer.

You will have received many submissions regarding the disparity of costs incurred by the regulated taxi industry as opposed to the Uber sector. I agree with the view that the playing field is unfair if Uber can continue without the ongoing costs and requirements that beset the normal licenced taxi operator. However, I want to draw the committee's attention to a different issue.

Uber is a worldwide issue. It has imposed itself upon many societies in the western world. It was created out of very large sums of money by a group which seeks to dump their system, in this case transport, upon what I see as an unsuspecting public.

I do not use the word "impose" lightly.

How is a company allowed to come into our country and simply subvert our laws? Uber obviously has deep pockets when it can continue to pay the fines which up to date have been imposed on it's drivers. Those fines were imposed because laws were being broken. For good or for bad they are our laws, and they have worked well until now. If they are bad laws then let Uber, or anyone else, use proper channels to have the law changed. Uber has had a dream run. The company doesn't break our laws and get fined, the Uber drivers do. And then Uber steps in to pay the drivers fines from it's obscenly deep pockets. Would an Australian company get away with this kind of flaunting of the law? I don't think so! I believe that the Australian taxi industry can survive Uber, if Uber is subjected to the same laws and regulations. Uber should work the same hours as the industry, not simply cherrypick times and locations that otherwise help the average taxi driver to make a reasonable wage. Uber should work the same territories and markets as the industry, and pay the same fees, charges and taxes. At the present time Uber is dictating how it wants to operate and how it doesn't want to be controlled.

But think of this. Uber, a mysterious wealthy overseas company seeks to impose it's will upon the Australian nation. Will Uber, or some company like Uber, stop at the attempt of substantial unsolicited change to the taxi industry? Governments need to think about the consequences of these kinds of intrusions into our society. What could be next for Uber. Such a company could come into our country and impose it's will on almost any industry.

Uber has bottomless pockets and only seeks to make a profit. It's invasion into Australian society comes at a cost, and I am not sure that in the long term our society will be happy to support governments and authorities which allow foreign entities to come into our land and circumvent our good laws that are based on our Austalian

experience. Large sections of our population will be worse off with Uber. I see this as an issue where the government needs to make a stand. Voters vote for fairness, not for imposition.