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10 October 2105

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

Re - Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 ("the Bill")

Dear Sir,

We fully support the proposed above Katter Australia Party Bill. Our family has been involved in the Qld Taxi Industry for nearly 30 years, as owners, drivers and operators and seen the industry go from a guy in a car talking on a two way radio to the high tech computer dispatched, GPS tracked, Safety Camera monitored taxis of today. Our only concerns about the Bill are that it does not go nearly far enough and the current governments complete lack of willingness to address the issue, either through legislation or enforcement, which has been coming for over two years.

Since the current and previous government did very little to enforce the current laws prohibiting the Uber type mobile phone applications, this billion dollar American multinational company has arrived in Qld, and completely ignored our laws and procedures, and Cease and Desist letters from the government in power and effectively started an illegal, unlicensed, unregulated opposition taxi company.

Taxis have been regulated in Qld, and many other parts of the world, for the simple reason of customer service. If you can do as you please, like Uber, you will only work (ie transport people) when it is convenient to you...and not when the people demand it (ie anybody, anywhere, anytime). We have over \$2 million invested in this industry so we make sure the taxis are working 24/7. An Uber driver who has NO investment in the industry has no reason to service people in the outlying areas, disabled people, drunk people, children or ANYONE

at all for that matter. He does exactly as he pleases and treats his profession as a hobby rather than a job. Without regulation service to the public WILL suffer. Without regulation, and governments with the stomach to enforce it in the face of a PR social media spin campaign, service will decline and prices will rise.

The governments feeble attempts to fine a few drivers, (none since June according to the Taxi Council of Qld) has failed to work because Uber just pays the fines. It is small change to them , imagine if a mining company paid a \$1700 fine every time it dumped toxic sludge into Sydney Harbour...that is far cheaper than actually complying with Environmental acts. The public would be outraged.

The KAP Bill seeks to accrue demerit points against the individual illegal drivers who are breaking the law by transporting passengers for money. This is a step in the right direction as with no illegal drivers there is no illegal service. It should go further and deregister the car as well as they have done in NSW, that gets rid of the illegal vehicle too. While it is true that there will be many more people willing to risk bankruptcy and public safety by driving an uninsured car out in the public domain, demerit points MAY stop a few of the people who actually think about it seriously.

I have concerns about the wording of the proposed S70A(2), the word "may" should be changed to "must". A law is no good if people can "weasel word" their way out of it with a high priced lawyer. Remember this company has more money than the Qld government.

I also suggest adding to the monetary value of the fine, \$1700 is not much when you are risking the lives of all around you, both passengers in your car and the general public are not covered by ANY insurance because of the fact the driver is operating illegally. Make the fine ten times more as well.

As stated before this will be useless unless the government enforces it. They cannot choose to enforce speeding laws, while ignoring the Uber type offences...otherwise I may as well say I will ignore all the speeding laws, since I obey all the Taxi Laws. The Laws are the Laws you cannot choose which ones to enforce or obey.

Please contact us if you need any further information.

Thanking You

Jason Steele

John Steele

Louise Steele