

**VICTORIAN
TAXI
ASSOCIATION**

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Jim Pearce MP
Chair
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Queensland Parliament
Cnr of George and Alice Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000

12 October 2015

Dear Mr. Pearce MP,

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to respond to the policy given effect by the amendment Bill currently being managed by the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

We would not presume to have specific reflections on the nature of proposed changes on the Queensland taxi industry but have no doubt the Queensland Taxi Council will make a detailed and well evidenced submission to the process.

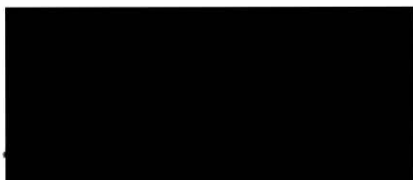
Having gone through a broad ranging industry inquiry and resulting significant reforms in the past few years, we urge the Committee to be open to the information submitted during the consultation period so as to ensure the result provides the preconditions for a vibrant, diverse, and innovative industry with regulations which focus primarily on public safety and the viability of service providers, particularly in markets where their services are central to the independence and mobility of thousands of community members.

Should it be seen as potentially helpful, the VTA are happy to meet to share our reflections on the recent inquiry and reform implementation experience in Victoria.

As you would appreciate, this process comes at a time when the taxi and hire car industries are facing unprecedented challenge from an illegal competitor. We would also like to take this opportunity to restate that the objection of legitimate service providers and their representations around Australia is not driven by a fear of competition but simply the fundamental inequality. It is vital that modern legislation and regulations recognise and respond to the emergence of new business models through the development of appropriate regulation and associated suitable penalties and sanctions. Ultimately, all the taxi industry is seeking is a level playing field on which to compete.

We wish you the best for this reform process and trust you will receive constructive input from industry participants in Queensland.

Regards,



DAVID SAMUEL
Chief Executive Officer