

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015  
**Date:** Thursday, 15 October 2015 1:06:42 AM

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I am writing to you in support of the proposed amendment to the Transport Legislation. As a Taxi owner now for some twenty years (Willcass Pty Ltd) and there are many in Queensland like me a single owner endeavouring to run a small business and earn a modest income. Over the last eighteen months lawful businesses are being slowing taken down by another party/parties flouting the law ,doing what they like, how they like and saying what they like. The travelling public have been misled and are quite ill-informed of their rights and where they stand lawfully should an accident happen.

Most law abiding businesses pay good hard earned monies to pay for yearly licence fees, registrations, security camera levies and insurances etc etc etc. In doing so we are finding it difficult to continue to compete on an even keel whilst it appears before the public that UBER continue to scoff at Governments/Policies and requirements of normal legislative Acts of Parliament or Queensland Transport regulations. Whilst driving I worked in excess of ninety hours a week to compete with sufficient income, book work , running a business and attending to all requirements of the business. I now find I cannot complete all the duties I did attend to and have to now employ drivers. In doing this this my company's income levels have been greatly affected by the illegal Uber service and the general downturn in the economy. Last month I had to lend my company capital due to the effected business.

Please note that I personally have no problem should Uber wish to enter the Queensland Taxi Industry however should it be allowed it is allowed under the same rules as me as a driver and my company completed the regulatory and met the same requirements as we did and continue to do so on a daily basis and be a proud taxi owner with Yellow Cabs (Qld) Pty Ltd Silver Service.

As stated above as a small operator I am seeing the effects of this illegal Uber service on the Taxi Industry . I have a serious concern with the overall picture of the Queensland Taxi industry for its future. Over the past years Taxi owners and the Transport Department have worked together to bring the industry to what it is today an effective taxi service catering to all needs for the Queensland Public, including Taxi Subsidy scheme, school groups, aged care nursing homes , the disable and the overall general public and a number of that public with certain needs. If a level playing field is not granted the taxi industry becomes no longer viable and will implode and all the good work over the past years will become a thing of the past. In a non-regulator industry a number of these people will not be serviced and a small operator will not be able to have their taxis on the road due to a large proportion not being available due to lack of income to run that vehicle. Do we wish to returned to the dark past.

As to innovation the Queensland Taxi industry has kept up with technology dating back many years with modern computers, tracking, security cameras and YES APPS available on your mobile and house phones. Most large owners or depots allow the collecting and temporary banking of Income Tax and GST payments for their drivers which is returned to the drivers at the driver request. Other facilities are also available at depots. The alternative is a large overseas company with no interest what so ever in Queensland only to sought funds for its overseas facilities not paying Australian Income tax or collecting Gst on behalf of its drivers , its drivers

not declaring income tax or paying GST and driving a private car when the individual has nothing else better to do other than to collect some side money in peak periods with little interest in the travelling public other than short term monetary gain.

I firmly believe that attaching demerit points to the fines that are already being issued will assist in the reduction of people willing to drive for Uber. I also note that a large number of these people may be from overseas and maybe not be allowed to work under various visas. In doing this the person driving his vehicle for Uber may think and be responsible like I am required to be responsible for my Taxi when I am driving it.

I believe a Public campaign by the Queensland Government informing the public of the truth in travelling on Public transport by taxi would be of benefit so that the Queensland Public is made aware of the honest facts that drivers working for Uber are operating illegally and not in the right interest of the travelling public..

Thankyou for your consideration

James Stephen Browne  
Willcass Pty Ltd

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