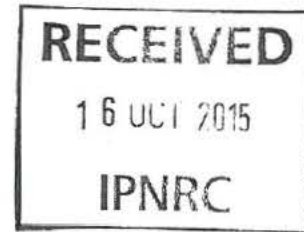


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Submission No. 135  
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13 October 2015



13<sup>th</sup> October 2015



Infrastructure, Planning and Natural  
Resources Committee,  
Parliament House,  
**BRISBANE. QLD 4000**

Dear Sirs and Madam,

The Taxi Industry in Queensland is tightly controlled by State Government Regulations, which have evolved over many years and are designed largely to:

- (a) ensure vehicles used as Taxis are roadworthy and safe to carry passengers (checked thoroughly by the Transport Department staff 6 monthly).
- (b) ensure Taxi drivers are licensed by the Transport Department to drive a Taxi
- (c) ensure Taxis are part of a properly registered Taxi Company, providing service 24/7
- (d) ensure that disabled persons are catered for by provision of an adequate number of specially designed vehicles
- (e) ensure response time by Taxi Companies to bookings is adequately speedy.

There are many other requirements which the Taxi Industry must meet to observe State Government Regulations, all of which add to overall costs.

However in recent times, unlawful vehicles, posing as Taxis, are being used to transport passengers for a monetary fee in direct contravention of the many State Government regulations involving the Taxi Industry.

These illegal 'Taxis' pose a direct threat to the safety of the travelling public by non-adherence to the Provisions of the Transport Act and related similar legislation. Non-adherence to the statutory requirements enables the illegal operators to charge a lower fare rate.

One company in particular has been served with a 'cease and desist' order but continues to operate freely. The relevant Minister has confirmed that fines amounting to \$1.7 M have been paid by this company on behalf of their drivers who in effect are posing as Taxi Drivers.

The company in question is a worldwide entity with huge monetary resources. If left unchecked it will continue to pay fines for its illegal drivers. Consequently the proposed amendments to the Transport Legislation providing for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a demand taxi permit, must be supported, to ensure the safety of those members of the travelling public who choose to use a Taxi service.

We strongly recommend that the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee supports the proposed amendments.

Yours faithfully,



T.H.J. GRIFFITHS

E.M. GRIFFITHS