

Submission No. 136  
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12 October 2015

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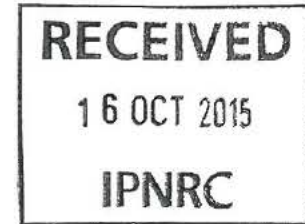


The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Parliament House

Brisbane

12 October 2015



Dear Sirs

**Submission: The Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.**

I am an elderly pensioner living in a retirement village, I do not have a car and need access to a safe reliable taxi service. I am making a submission in support of the proposed change to legislation, The Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015. My reasons are:

- In Queensland we have a perfectly good taxi service that meets requirements set by legislation to ensure the safety and security of passengers. This taxi service meets the needs of the public. I have found the taxi drivers I have used to be helpful and polite and willing to assist people with mobility aids etc.
- It is illegal for anyone to just take paying passengers in their car, which is exactly what Uber are doing. They can charge whatever they like, whereas legal taxis have to use meters and charge set rates. I do not see why Uber should be allowed to operate in Queensland until they comply with our laws as all other taxis do.
- Safety features of taxis like cameras and alarms are very reassuring for elderly people and should be a requirement for Uber taxis as well.
- Uber are able to undercut the legal taxis because Uber taxis don't have these security measures and also are not paying the higher registration or insurance required for vehicles taking paying passengers.
- Uber is not creating new jobs, they are taking away the living of the hard working legal taxi drivers.

- My fear is if Uber is allowed to continue to operate without meeting any legal requirements, it will destroy the taxi industry, then what would happen to us elderly people, including those who use wheelchairs etc?
- I also find it outrageous that Uber can come in to Australia, pay no tax or GST and send all its profits out of the country.

The government must act strongly to uphold its own legislation that it has put in place to regulate taxis. Uber should not operate its taxis until it meets all requirements. It appears that some Uber drivers have been fined but these have simply been paid by Uber, this wealthy overseas company. So just fining drivers has no effect on stopping Uber cars operating illegally. This is why this change to legislation is needed to stop illegal operators, ensure the safety of passengers and support the taxi operators who are operating within the law.

Yours sincerely

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Patricia Dixon (Mrs)