

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Fw: Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Thursday, 15 October 2015 12:55:01 PM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 9:36 AM
To: IPNRC@parliament.ald-gov-au
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The Parliamentary Committee,

A few comments I would like to make regarding the Public Passenger Transport Legislation review.

Firstly the legislation was originally put into place to protect the travelling public, to enable a fare schedule that has been constantly monitored and adjusted by Queensland Transport and to provide regulations that control the industry, enabling it to provide a sustainable product and safe service to the public.

As the owner of 1 taxi licence we can only run a vehicle for a max of 6 years, have machinery inspections over the pits twice a year, pay extremely high registration fees which cover passengers for insurance while travelling in my taxi, taxi licence fees to Qld Transport even though I own the licence, operator accreditation fees, taxi camera levies, rank marshall levies to provide passenger safety at ranks, and now I have to spend another \$3700 to replace the camera system that Qld transport made us put in and now have deemed it unsuitable as it doesn't provide audio facilities to ensure passenger and driver safety.

We provide a service to pensioners through the government subsidy scheme so they have affordable fares, as well through the Dept of Education for the safe transport of children with disabilities, also to the Dept of veterans affairs and victims of domestic violence.

All our drivers pay tax and GST on every fare as do us as owners.

By allowing ride share apps as they are so called when in actual fact they are running an illegal taxi service without any of the controls or requirements of the legislation this is undermining the industry that we and the Government have strived to make fair and safe. Every fare we carry goes through the meter and people know exactly how much they will be paying at the end of their journey, with these ride share apps depending on the time of day or day of the week some fares could be half what a taxi fare would cost and at other times they could pay anything up to 3-4 times the equivalent taxi fare so there is no controls at all.

There is no monitoring of the vehicle condition of these operators, or as to the safety of the passengers as they would not pay the third party insurance we have to pay and in reality you don't even know who they are, there are no systems within the vehicles to

monitor what is going on, also how do you collect the GST or for that matter the Tax earned on their income?.

Every Driver in the taxi industry has to go through regular refresher training are constantly monitored by the taxi company they are affiliated with as well as there owners as to presentation and standard of service, all cars are fitted with GPS systems and radios so the Taxi booking company they are affiliated with know where the car is at all times, the only way you cam monitor one of these other operators is by their mobile phone and who is monitoring that? especially if they turn it off.

The owners of most of these apps are residents outside of Australia and don't pay tax here and are multi billionaires and have continually thumbed their noses at the regulations in every country overseas and other Australian states that they have infiltrated.

Both my wife and myself have worked 2 jobs over the last 10 years to pay off the licence so we will be able to establish an income for ourselves when we eventually retire so we don't have to rely on the pension, a lot of people think that owning a taxi will make you rich!, they obviously don't know the industry, we look at it as we have bought ourselves a job. Any capital gain on the licence we make we again have to pay tax on and that is if we can sell it, with the threat of these apps being allowed to continue un monitored, undermining an industry that has provided a safe public transport service I doubt there will be much of a market.

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I don't have a problem with competition as that is healthy for an industry but as long as it is a level playing field for all.

Don't forget it is the Government that sets the fares, we have no control over that, it is the government that sets the number of taxis in each area to make the industry sustainable, we have no control over that, it is the Government that sets the vehicle and driver standards to which we have to comply to again we have no control over that.

I would urge the committee to very carefully look at every aspect of these unregulated Apps as we all know they have unlimited funds to lobby governments and the like to sway things their way, I certainly would not want to be part of a decision that makes a good industry turn in to uncontrolled Kaos.

Yours Faithfully

James Flaherty

Jim & Leone Holdings Pty. Ltd

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