

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Support for the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill
Date: Thursday, 15 October 2015 2:26:20 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I fully support the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill but not just because I am involved in the Queensland Taxi Industry.

Many people believe that those involved with the taxi industry as it currently stands are against Illegal Ride Share companies because we do not want the competition, or because we fear that our “protected industry” will be taken away from us.

The fact of the matter is, the taxi industry in Queensland is NOT a “protected industry”, but merely a heavily regulated & legislated one. These regulations & legislations were set in place by the Queensland Government to protect the passengers of taxi services.

The fact that the current government appears to have no interest in upholding the law that it set in place is incredibly confusing & disheartening & makes me wonder why the Government seems to have no interest in the safety of the people who live in this state. Why set the laws if you do not intend to have EVERYONE follow them?

I don't believe I need to waste time laying out all the requirements, fees & laws that the taxi industry has to abide by, as I'm sure Government is well aware of them. I am also sure Government is aware of the enormous cost of all these factors to the owners/operators & drivers within the industry.

How is it fair that one side of the fence – the LEGAL taxi operators – have to spend thousands of dollars per year to operate, when the other side – the ILLEGAL operators/Ride Share companies – do not? They are essentially doing the same work that taxi's do (albeit, they seem to ignore the disabled/elderly) without having to spend the money that we do?

I always thought Australia was about a fair go for all, a place that prides itself on creating equal opportunities for everyone. I guess this is not the case in this industry.

Competition within business is not a bad thing, in fact it is a good component to any business. It keeps businesses on their toes & always striving to be the best & provide the best service.

Personally, I welcome competition, but it needs to be on a fair & even playing field.

If Government is unwilling to make the taxi industry a level playing field, it will be the customers of the industry that will lose out in the end. To have an unregulated taxi industry is to welcome all kinds of scenarios that jeopardise the safety of the travelling public. As it currently stands, Illegal Ride Share companies have nothing in place to protect their passengers. They are not required to have cars fitted with GPS tracking or security cameras. This is just one example of something the taxi industry pays to have in place for the safety of the passengers. They do not complete daily criminal checks on their drivers, the cars that are used do not have to pass 6 monthly Queensland Transport inspections, nor do the drivers have to abide by a zero breath alcohol limit. Taxi drivers/operators have to abide by all these things. How is that safe for passengers travelling in illegal taxis?

Illegal ride share companies try to have the public believe that they are not a taxi, & therefore should not have to operate within the same regulations & legislations that taxis do – What a joke. Of course they are a taxi – they are booked to pick up members of the public & transport them to where they ask to go & the drivers are paid to do this. This is exactly the same as a taxi – “Ride Share” is just a fancy name they have come up with to try & bypass our laws & sadly it seems that our Government is falling for their trickery! You can paint an apple purple, but it is still an apple.

And what ever happened to supporting what is local? The Queensland Taxi Industry is AUSTRALIAN. The money we generate as a whole is made & spent in AUSTRALIA. The main Illegal Ride Share company in Queensland – Uber – is NOT AUSTRALIAN & it is a well known fact that the money generated by this company in Australia is sent overseas. How is that supporting our own community? All the players in the LEGAL Queensland Taxi Industry, from the large booking companies, to the small “Mum & Dad” operations pay their fees, pay their taxes & generate large profit for Queensland. Uber do NONE of this. They ignore our laws, pay no taxes & spend their money overseas.

Government should be cracking down on these illegal operators NOW – showing that they enforce the laws that they set. One way of doing so is to increase penalties against those who are found to be doing the wrong thing. This bill should be passed immediately.

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