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To The Infrastructure, Planning, and Natural Resources Committee,

I am a 62 year old owner and operator of a Brisbane open taxi licence since 2007, who relies on the operation of this for my income, and to support two dependent children.

I comply with all federal and state laws. I pay GST, income tax, and pay for state mandated charges including, taxi registration, commercial insurance, affiliated booking fees, Security Levy, Operator Accreditation, Driver Authorisation, 6 monthly vehicle checks by Dept of Transport & Main Roads, and purchase of complying security cameras. I myself need a zero criminal record to own the licence and hold Operator Accreditation.

A change to legislation, (to increase penalties in the Transport Operations- Passenger Transport Act 1994) is needed. This should be to add demerit points to stop drivers doing illegal taxi work, eg, drivers who use Uber and other apps, who bypass all state passenger transport laws & costs that make the industry safe, and who bypass GST and tax obligations.

Without a change to legislation, the taxi industry and all owners will be decimated by reduced income, unviability of operating a taxi in QLD, and potential bankruptcies of many operators . This industry requires a level playing field to remain viable. It should not be penalised and ignored while complying with state laws. Without legislative change I would have very little income in the future, and I would not be able to pay off the loan used to purchase the taxi licence. All my hard work would come to nothing and my family and I would have to rely on Government benefits to survive.

Without a change to the legislation, which is needed for a viable taxi industry, there would be little or no service for the public in QLD, especially for the disabled, children, elderly, the frail, and vulnerable people. There would be no service for those that do not have smart phones or those that object to using apps from a multinational organisation. Uber engages in surge pricing, and will not co-operate with governments around the world. Is this what the state government wants for the future ?

Please consider my submission, on behalf of myself, my wife and 2 dependent children.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jackman 17/10/2015



P.S. Legislation change should include driver demerit points and impoundment of vehicles of illegal drivers working with illegal companies