

Submission No. 151

11.1.10

17 October 2015

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#151

To The Infrastructure, Planning, and Natural Resources Committee,

I am a 58 year old woman who is an owner and operator of a Brisbane open taxi licence since 2007. The business has been the primary source of my family's income since that time. I paid stamp duty on the purchase of the licence as mandated by state government.

I comply with all federal and state laws. I pay GST, income tax, state mandated charges including, taxi registration, commercial insurance, Cab Booking Company fees, Security levy, Operator Accreditation, Driver Authorisation, 6 monthly vehicle checks by Dept of Transport & Main Roads, and purchase of complying security cameras. My vehicle has to be replaced every 6 years or sooner, and has to be on the road 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. In addition to this the Driver Authorisations require a regular medical check by GP, daily criminal history checks by the Dept of Transport and Main Roads, and Zero alcohol readings.

A change to legislation, (to increase penalties in the Transport Operations- Passenger Transport Act 1994 ) is needed to stop illegal activity by drivers who use Uber and other apps, who bypass all state passenger transport laws and costs that make the industry safe, and who bypass GST and tax obligations.

Without a change to state legislation, and the policing of state laws, the taxi industry and all owners will be decimated by reduced profits or income, unviability of operating a taxi in QLD and potential bankruptcies of operators like myself. I would have to go on unemployment benefits at age 58, and the age pension later on. I have very little in superannuation like many women of my age, and still have a loan with Westpac for the purchase of this licence. I have been relying on hard work in this industry to provide my family income and for the licence itself to be an alternative to my meagre superannuation.

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.

I am very disheartened that existing laws have not been upheld and policed by the Transport Department and the police, and believe it is a dereliction of duty of the state government to allow this situation to have happened and to continue to happen. I ask why do we have a Transport Department, why do we have laws that are unenforced.

Please consider my submission, on behalf of myself and for the several thousand other ordinary owners, operators and their families, around the state.

Sincerely,

Wendy Jackman 17/10/2015

