

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

I provide this submission in support of the *Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015*.

- The taxi industry, like many other industries, is regulated by government for the good of the community. This requires taxis to meet certain standards and sets the prices of taxi fares. If another company like Uber wants to commence operation, it should meet the same requirements as current taxis.
- Uber appears to think they are something different by calling it ride sharing, but ordering an Uber car is exactly the same as ordering a taxi.
- It is not legal for anyone to just start using their car like a taxi, which is what Uber cars are doing. If Uber wants to operate in Australia then they should obey our laws.
- It is not fair to other taxi drivers who have to pay for security features, training, higher registration and insurance, if Uber cars don't.
- Uber can offer cheaper fares to encourage people to use them because they are not meeting all the requirements put in place by the government. However, in peak periods they can just put their prices up. One reason taxis are regulated is to establish reasonable costs for taxi services. Uber should have the same restrictions. It seems that Uber can change their prices as they please.
- As an example, someone I know thought she would try an Uber car and found because it was a busy time the price was nearly double normal and no cheaper than a taxi.
- The Queensland government should also be supporting Queensland businesses. Queensland taxi operators are everyday Queenslanders, who pay their taxes and GST, not a huge overseas company like Uber that doesn't pay taxes or GST in Australia.
- Whilst competition can be a good thing, all parties must be required to play by the same rules. It is not fair competition if Uber can operate without meeting any of the legal requirements. The government should be constantly looking to improve standards, not reduce them.
- Whilst Uber might not like some requirements, they need to recognise that this is the law in Queensland.
- The government should stand up to Uber and not be pressured into making any changes to undermine the current standards of service and safety.
- If a government develops a framework of laws, then all organisations and members of the community have to abide by them. Those that don't normally are penalised in some way. Uber are operating outside the legal framework. The government should show it is serious about enforcing its laws and advise Uber management that they cannot operate until it satisfactorily meets all the same requirements as other taxi services.
- Uber drivers must not be allowed to continue operating illegally. If fining Uber drivers is pointless because Uber pays the fines, then having another penalty like demerit points is an obvious step that the government should take as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,



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