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The Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

A SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (TAXI SERVICES) AMMENDMENT 2015

My partner and I have worked and invested in the legal Queensland taxi industry for more than 25 years. We own 3 Taxi Service Licences which were to have enabled us to become self - funded retirees. This investment is now worthless because of illegal Uber taxis whose continued operation has destroyed all confidence and security of investment in TSLs. All TSLs were originally sold by the Government of the day and the present Government is obliged to protect or compensate their value.

I am aware of the Strategic Taxi Industry Plan due later this year and the Independent Review due August next year. These matters are separate from, and provide no remedy for, the immediate and ongoing reality of illegal Uber taxis operating in contravention of Queensland law. These illegal taxis must be shut down NOW.


I support the Legislation currently before the Committee although I do not believe it goes far enough. It should include increased financial penalties and impoundment of vehicles.

Uber has been issued a Cease and Desist Order for which it has shown a blatant disregard. By continuing to coerce, recruit and induct Queenslanders to work as illegal taxi drivers it is in breach of the Criminal Code. The Police must be called upon to enforce the Order and the Criminal Code and close the Uber offices.

Having been present at the Taxi Industry protests outside Parliament House I noted with interest that the majority of those present were not investors but taxi drivers who were not born in Queensland – people from elsewhere who now live in Queensland and have grown to appreciate working in a secure, regulated and safe industry. These taxi drivers have gathered to show their support for an industry which is under threat from a wealthy foreign invader who operates in a manner akin to the Mafia – it gets someone else to do the dirty work and skims a percentage off the top.

Uber and illegal taxis are against the law and need to be dealt with now to protect the service and safety provided by the legal and regulated taxi industry. Successive governments of differing persuasion have always praised the service and quality of the Queensland Taxi Industry. Inactivity and procrastination in the face of the wealth and technology of a foreign invader operating outside Queensland law is not the answer.

Brenda Malcolm
Brenda Malcolm


17 October 2015

