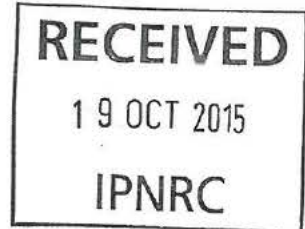


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Oct 19th 2015

Attention  
Research Director  
Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane  
[IPNRC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:IPNRC@parliament.qld.gov.au)



CC Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk [Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Inala@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
CC Hon Jacklyn Trad [South.Brisbane@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:South.Brisbane@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
CC Mr Michael de Brenni [Springwood@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Springwood@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
CC Mr Scott Emerson [Indooroopilly@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Indooroopilly@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
CC Mr Lawrence Springborg [Southern.Downs@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Southern.Downs@parliament.qld.gov.au)

**Subject: Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015**

Dear Sir/Madam

I own one taxi licence and acknowledge technology is undeniably part of our lives and we are witnessing something very different and dangerous in the way it impacts on our lives with the product Uber. This impact and danger has occurred because government and regulators have not successfully regulated the Taxi industry since Uber have come on the scene.

We are recognised as a free and democratic country and have many laws and regulations that protect consumers, business, environment, construction, land use, professions, unions and workers. Why have regulations and laws that prohibit certain business operations in areas, building heights, trading hour restrictions, restriction on sale of liquor, poker machine limits, pharmacy outlet restrictions, news agent regulations, restriction on radio and TV broadcasters, telecommunications, fire alarm installation and maintenance? The list could continue.

All these are regulated in some way and if operators or competitors want to enter or expand their market they need to observe the law or lobby and have the law changed or expect to be prosecuted and fined for noncompliance.

Change to laws and regulation has been bought about by consumer demand, lobbying, technology, government changes and competition. At times it has even been part of voters' decision making when they choose how to vote in elections. Regulations are there to ensure order, safety, service levels, encourage and protect investment where an unregulated system is chaotic.

Our Queensland government appear to have set a precedent that may be the thin edge of wedge by allowing a multinational to flout the laws that apply to the taxi industry. The Google/Uber publicity 'machine' and regulators' 'flat footed response' is such that Uber have been allowed to enter a regulated market with no apparent need to abide by regulations and little fear of fines, points loss or prosecution.

Does this now mean that other regulations and regulated markets with new players disregarding regulations have no need to fear regulators and government? I had thought this would never be allowed to ever occur in our country - I am wrong and despair for our community if this is not addressed because other unethical operators and businesses will see the lack of response to taxi industry as opportunity to disregard regulations in other sectors.

Generally Australians and Australian businesses observe the law and regulations and call for change within the law. Another law for Uber is totally unacceptable.

As an owner of a taxi licence I had set out to have an investment that was my income as driver and essentially now my superannuation - I made this decision to have a taxi licence as it was regulated and regulators have always offered protection to our customers, drivers and owners of plates. I have always considered it an ethical solid investment that provided a valued service to our community and society.

Lack of action from regulators has seen safety levels decline, the value of this asset diminished and arguably the 'thin edge of the wedge' applied where international organisations can disregard Queensland regulations with little fear of regulators enforcing existing regulations. I see a potential risk to all regulations that apply in our wonderful state.

I do acknowledge that the digital revolution has and will continue to change our life styles and the way we trade, live and communicate. For government not to be involved in planning, managing the changes where applicable is abrogating their responsibility. It is understandable that the Uber thing came unexpectedly and planning pre its arrival impossible - though there are no excuses for not enforcing regulations! What is completely unacceptable is to undertake a review of the taxi industry yet allow the unregulated Uber to operate with little fear of fines, points or prosecution during the review process. If a taxi operation does not observe the rules they expect to be fined and even put off the road - and that is what is expected and accepted by the taxi industry. Why allow Uber to operate during inquiry and run risk of other laws and regulations being treated with contempt?

I trust that my concerns relating to Uber's operation during review period are addressed urgently and their operation is curtailed during review period. Should you wish to speak with me I am available [REDACTED] Thank-you.

Yours Sincerely

*M. L. Holmes*

Marie Holmes