

17th October 2015

Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE: the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015

My Name is Robert Di Felice and I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Queensland regarding the Taxi industry and the illegal invasion of Uber.

I am 47 years of age and was born in Brisbane. I began my apprenticeship as a painter when I left school at the age of 17. I now have my own business employing 10 people.

My wife and I have two children aged 17 and 20. One in university and the other finishing Year 12 this year.

Over the years we have worked hard and saved to buy our home and pay the mortgage off. We bought our first taxi license in 2012 and our second in 2014 in which our bank has security over our home. We thought it would be wise to look into investing for our retirement. We are from an Italian background in which our parents instilled in us a strong work ethic and a sense of pride in the ability to support your family.

Over the years I have struggled with work anxiety and stress especially throughout the GFC when work was hard to find. Like true Queenslanders we get on with it and push through the hard times hoping that all the hard work and long hours will see us through.

I have a sense of lost hope in my government that you are failing to uphold the Queensland regulation of the taxi industry and allowing Uber to just walk into our state and continue to operate after all the fines they have received and the cease and desist order that they have not followed.

My fear is that both my licenses will be worthless and I could possibly lose my investment and my family's future. I'm young and maybe we could bounce back.

If the Ride sharing apps take over this state and there is no regulated taxi system, all of us Queenslanders will lose. Uber and all other ride sharing apps will begin to charge excessive and ridiculous amounts for their services as they see fit. Only thinking of their own pocket and seeing our money leaving our shores.

I hope in writing this letter that you will maybe get a better understanding of the frustration and concerns we as individuals are feeling. I have lived in this state all my life. I am a citizen of Australia and I have paid my taxes. I voted in the last state election, they (Uber) didn't.

What would happen if other multinationals decided to start their own childcare centres without a license or maybe start commercial fishing without the proper license? We need to show these people that Queenslanders do not tolerate them coming into our state and into our country and start operating illegally and then demanding us to change our laws to suit them.

I ask you to STOP Uber destroying our industry.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Di Felice', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Di Felice

