

October 17th, 2015

To The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee,

Dear Jim Pearce MP,

The following submission is symbolic of the frustration felt by myself, my family, my colleagues, the entire Taxi industry and the vast majority of the Australian public. We call for action in supporting the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill introduced recently by Mr Katter as well as any further regulatory or legal action to assist in safeguarding the interests of the general public as well as those of our great industry from the corporate terrorism ride sharing plague (e.g., "Uber") that has illegally infiltrated our state and country.

Queensland Taxi industries have long been regulated, legislated, monitored and controlled by our government to ensure the highest level of passenger, driver, and public safety. Passenger vehicles are subject to non-negotiable 6-month safety inspections by the Queensland Transport Department and all aspects of vehicle safety are scrutinized by government agencies, meaning that taxis can be suspended from service at any time should they not meet such stringent requirements. Uniforms and company logos displayed by Taxi drivers signify to the public that drivers have undergone criminal history checks, safe driving and management courses, geographic locality exams and customer service training. Importantly, irrespective of attitudinal valence individual members of the public may hold towards cheap ride sharing, such measures are vital in that they protect the community from any hazard, whether foreseen or not. Moreover, to guarantee the maintenance of such high industry standards, the number of Queensland Taxi licenses permitted in circulation has been closely regulated by the government to ensure a of sustainable balance between supply and demand.

Collectively, the above measures are currently being circumvented by illegal and dangerous multinational companies (e.g., Uber) which operate with complete disregard for existing government legal and regulatory conditions, thereby siphoning revenue from Queensland with profits going offshore. To allow such companies to continue unimpeded makes a complete farce of the judicious motivations underlying the legal framework that the industry was predicated on, and consequently, will jeopardise public safety and destabilise or destroy our existing industry which cannot withstand such unregulated, unscrupulous, unchecked competition. Taxi owners such as my wife and myself have worked and saved hard for our entire lives to purchase taxi licenses to provide a source of income and equity for our retirement. The bottom line is that Uber is an illegal scourge on our state that robs legal operator's who have invested their entire life savings. We ask for support of Mr Katter's bill as well as swift and fair action to address these urgent matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian Stanley

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