

To: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Subject: Transport Amendment Bill

Date 17/10/2014

Submission : In support of KAP proposed Transport Amendment Bill.

We are one of the small business owners being directly affected by Illegal Ride Sharer namely Uber. We are licensed owner & operators of 2 Brisbane Taxi Licences and are feeling the consequences of allowing illegal operators such as UBER to continue to operate in Qld.

We abide by the Rule and Law of Qld Gov to operate our business.

We purchased Taxi Licences from Department of Transport in good faith and expect in return that the Gov of the day to protect us from illegal operators.

Our business (& all other Taxi owners & drivers) are being greatly impacted by Illegal Ride Sharing Activities such as UBER.

UBER is a foreign company who have enter the marketplace. In many of the countries where they have set up they have caused disruption , ignore laws, fail to pay any taxes , simply saying they are only a "ride sharing App".

Uber promote themselves in QLD as legal however they do not abide by the law of Government.

They are running a pseudo taxi company using "family cars" to transport paying Customers. Uber is not a "ride share" they demand payment for a service. It is our understanding that many drives do not disclose their Earnings therefore fail to pay any Income Tax or GST.

The only level playing field is for UBER or other 'ride sharing' companies is for them to set up their own legal TAXI Company and face the same regulations that we abide by.

Why are UBER not made to purchases Taxi Licence Plates like the rest of us?

To operate they should be made to have the Taxi Licence plate (It is said that Uber is worth \$50 billion dollars they should be able to afford Licence Plates!), Commercial passenger vehicle registration, Surveillance cameras CTP class 3 & full commercial insurance and follow the same existing standards as mandated by Transport. This should be made mandatory.

The impact of allowing UBER or any other Illegal Ride Sharing is enormous on my business.

The cost of running our small business includes :

Purchase of Licence Plate (loans for licence and Compliant Vehicles)

Taxi Registration, which currently is approx 7500 per year per car.

Full Taxi insurance which covers Cars, drivers & most importantly, passengers .

Levies to the QLD Gov - to ensure Taxi ranks are safe

Undergo Vehicle compliance every 6 months

Our Lawmakers must consider the impact of this unfair playing field on Licence owners, operators , drivers and their family members.

Taxi Driving is a hard business, Drivers are hard working, spending many hours behind a wheel to make a good honest living. We currently employ 5 drivers all of whom pay Tax and GST

Indirectly the taxi industry supply work for other small businesses eg mechanics, Taxi companies.

Taxi income has dramatically dropped since Uber arrival.

To finance the of purchase of our Taxi Licence plates we have burrowed a significant amount against our home .

If the Illegal Ride Share companies such as UBER , Lyft or any others, activities are not stopped we will be unable to repay bank loans as we will be unable to sell the Licence plates. In the Brisbane area it is now difficult to sell your licence as the marketplace is now unstable and uncertain. This will badly affect our retirement as we will not able to repay loans.

We urge the Government to continue to enforce the law , continue with issuing fines, introduce stronger and tougher penalties such as demerit points

Many other countries are also taking a stance against these illegal operations. It is reported that France's highest court has upheld a law which bans Uber. Why it is difficult for QLD to do the same?

Please take into consideration when you review the Transport Amendment bill that this is hurting us, hurting our family and lots of other Taxi Operators families of QLD.

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