

## The Bill

On 16 September 2015, the Member for Mount Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, introduced a private member's Bill, the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

The Bill was referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for examination. The Standing Orders require the committee to provide its report to the Legislative Assembly by 16 March 2016.

The objective of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 is to increase certain penalties in the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* to deter illegal taxi operators. The Bill proposes to do this by providing for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a peak demand taxi permit.

### **Submission:**

I wish to congratulate the KAP for having the intestinal fortitude to do what no other MP in Qld has had the gumption to do and that is stand by small business in Queensland.

I turn 50 this week and have been involved in the taxi industry since December 1989 when I first got my drivers authority (which is still current) and have filled just about every role from weekend spare time taxi driver through to General Manager of two separate Taxi Companies in Qld.

During this time, I have seen an industry adapt, evolve, innovate, change and grow from a shabby bunch of owner drivers through to a major Qld industry.

To see a company come into this state and simply ignore the laws of the land and do whatever they like has been the one of the most disappointing things I have witnessed in the past 26 years. To see a Government sit on their hands and let it happen is THE most disappointing thing I have seen in this industry.

Uber have proved to be masters of deception but please be very clear on the fact that Uber do not, have not and will not negotiate with any regulatory body. They will say the right things and let the authorities' belief they are negotiating, but ultimately, they will do whatever they like.

I am all for the state government reviewing and re-considering any new innovation, but this legislation is not about reviewing and reconsidering positions. This legislation is about upholding the law of this land.

Attached to this submission are some links and commentary that may prove of interest:

John Lobwein