

Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

22nd October, 2015.

Good afternoon Committee members,

I have worked in the taxi industry for up to a decade. My main job is in payroll and accounts for a small business that runs a fleet of taxis. Over the past 18 months I have noticed a drop in earnings from the cabs which is directly linked to the advent of the ride-share uber.

The introduction of this illegal taxi service worries me as it continues to undermine the earnings of the business, which may fold, and subsequently placing my employment in jeopardy.

Along with many regulatory, safety and insurance issues I have with uber rides not being compliant with local laws, the company/corporation does not pay any tax and neither are the drivers subjected to paying GST(as taxi drivers do).

Each week in the media I witness government officials hosting press conferences about how new projects are going to create so many jobs. These jobs will of course be payed by wages that are taxed. These taxes are collected by the government for services that are shared by all citizens.

Uber, on the other hand, have no GST payed by their drivers, and no corporate tax goes to the ATO. Money it seems is filtered off shore. This means that not only is uber getting the drivers to use their own vehicle(of which uber does not have to pay for) but their business is using local roads which they do not contribute any tax towards maintenance and construction. Basically, uber at present are getting the free ride.

Finally, as an individual who works in the taxi industry and a tax paying citizen of a sovereign nation, it frightens, as well as frustrates, me that our elected leaders appear to be doing little in curbing uber's attitude and business model. I, therefore, welcome the proposed bill for the recording of demerit points against drivers that provide a taxi service without the proper licence accreditation or a peak demand taxi permit.

Regards

Richard Purdy