

Dear Members of The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee,

I implore you to support the Transport Legislation (taxi services) Amendment Bill 2015, as introduced by Mr Rob Katter MP.

There have been several other submissions by taxi owners and drivers stating all the facts regarding the illegal and unfair entry of uber into the public transport system in Qld. I believe they have covered all the legal and ethical aspects and I fully support what has been documented. I also believe the Qld Government have not acted responsibly to protect the Taxi owners and drivers of Qld that comply with the strict Regulations ultimately set by said Government.

My husband and I wanted to make our statement from a personal angle, about how allowing an unregulated entity compete in a highly regulated environment may affect our future and the future of our children.

We went into the taxi business approximately 12 years ago, seeking an investment, not wanting to ever rely on the Aged Pension. We wanted our future to be comfortable, be self sufficient in our retirement and have something to hand on to our children.

From our backgrounds as an RN and a Plasterer this was no easy task. We learnt through trial and error, but ultimately ended up with a successful small business. Public perception seems to be that all taxi owners are ripping off the public and living the high life. We certainly do not. We both work and pay taxes, while trying to pay off an investment for our future.

The small business we run does not cover its own costs. There is a lack of knowledge in the general public regarding the costs of Taxi loans, tendered from the Qld Government and through private sales. There are loans, often in the range of \$400,000 to \$500,000 and the costs associated with running a taxi that complies strictly with the regulations the Qld Government has set in place.

This is our retirement fund and often sees us putting in personal income to offset costs. Convinced we had a contract with the Qld Government we believed in our industry and were confident we would not have to rely on Government assistance in our retirement. We are now very concerned that

the inaction of the same Government may see our investment worthless and ourselves ending up on an Aged Pension. There would be no inheritance for our children.

We are not a monopoly that the media portrays us to be; often we are Mum and Dad small business. We have suffered like everyone else through the GFC; we have worked hard to ensure our investment survives.

We need action by the Qld Government to level the playing field. uber does not have to abide by the regulations, and as such does not have the costs associated with the regulations. To make this happen uber should be made to buy a licence, have the same CTP component of registration that taxis have and vehicle compliance measures need to be reviewed. The alternative to this is to decrease the strict nature of compliance that taxis have. This is an alternative no taxi owner wants to see. The strict regulation is there for public protection and every taxi owner is well invested in seeing these safety measures protected.

The media portrays the taxi industry in the media as the bad guy that has the monopoly and that competition is healthy. Is this competition going to come at the cost of a decrease in public safety? I certainly would hope this is not what the Government or the general public would want. Taxis are well set up with inside and outside cameras, a large cost to the owner, but a necessary one that we are happy to have. uber has an app that has driver details listed. With identity theft a reality, how strict is this faceless company in ensuring these people are not criminals?

Taxi drivers must obtain Driver Authorisation. They must have training through a registered body and of course a criminal history check. This is not a once off check but an ongoing process. Again this shows how serious both the Qld Government and the taxi industry is when it comes to public safety.

I cannot stress highly enough how this is affecting our lives. We are frightened that we will lose a large amount of money that we have invested in good faith. We are small business owners that already work hard in our chosen fields. We pay loans for our investment, and I do not believe the Government are acting forcibly enough secure that. We signed a contract with the Qld Government that we would ensure our cars were roadworthy, had inspections every six

months, would not be older than 6 years old and have cameras fitted to assist with public safety. We are consistently meeting our servicing levels as required. We expect that the Government of Qld will act in our best interest, abide by the contract we have with them and not allow illegal businesses to take away our earnings and investments for our future. We believe the only way to ensure this is to implement the demerit point system as per the Transport Amendment Bill as any fines received by uber drivers are simply paid by a foreign company that has no regard for the law enforcement in Qld.

Kind Regards

Kristie and Colin Cupid

**From:**  
**To:** [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission for the support of the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill (taxi service) 2015  
**Date:** Tuesday, 20 October 2015 1:30:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [Submission for the Support of the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill \(taxi service\) 2015.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

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To whom it may concern,

Please find attach my submission in relation to my support of the Transport Legislation (taxi service) Amendment Bill 2015.

I have not signed the submission as at present I do not have access to a scanner. If this is a problem please let me know to ensure my submission is received in appropriate format prior to the cut off date of the 22nd of October at 4pm.

Kind Regards  
Kristie Cupid