

Dear Committee Members,

I am seeking your support to the Member for Mount Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, who introduced a private member's Bill, the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

My wife and I purchased a taxi service licence on the Sunshine Coast 2 years ago by mortgaging our unit to obtain our loan. We are very concerned with the illegal taxi service Uber operating currently here in Queensland. Uber does not comply with any of the safety regulations (COSTS) that we as a taxi have to incur such as;

- Cameras
- Braille
- Criminal checks by a government agency (Transport Main Roads)
- Satellite tracking
- A vehicle that a maximum of 6 years old
- A vehicle that is checked twice a year by a government agency (TMR)

These safety features are imposed for a reason to keep the public safe. There are other costs such as insurance and registration which are significantly higher for us to legally provide our service here in QLD. An even playing field needs to be provided (not a new set of rules for one and not everyone else, exactly the same for every company who performs a taxi service). And the companies/individuals who do not conform to the laws need to be reprimanded suitable so it won't reoccur in the future like taking points.

The other issue I have is if Uber are legalised and deregulation occurs is what happens, to the most vulnerable people in our community, the disabled and the elderly? Especially in regional centres when the public transport systems are decimated because of the deregulation. These are people who rely on picking up a home telephone and speaking with the operator to book transport. Uber does not offer this service my grandparents cannot use and do not own a smart phone. My sister who is disabled cannot book an Uber to pick her up in her wheelchair. There are numerous news articles relating to the discrimination by Uber to these vulnerable people in our community (please refer to the links at the end of my submission).

Lastly my wife and I and the taxi company we work with pay tax here in Australia I know it's a federal issue but the tax monies do or are supposed to filter through the levels of government.

<http://time.com/4004167/uber-drivers-criminal-record-los-angeles-san-francisco/>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ellenhuet/2015/08/19/uber-background-check-lawsuit-convicted-felons-prosecutors/>

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/08/20/technology/uber-safety-lawsuit/>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-uber-criminal-records-20150804-story.html>

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/Blind-Man-Allegedly-Refused-Ride-by-Uber-Driver-318649821.html>

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/bensmith/uber-executive-suggests-digging-up-dirt-on-journalists>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2841329/Uber-investigates-executive-spying-customer-Manager-used-God-View-tool-track-journalist-without-consent-claims-report.html>

Yours sincerely,