

Submission to the Parliamentary Committees Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resource Committee Inquiry into the Impact of Proposed Amendment

a. Submissions

The submission is to support the argument of rewarding three demerit points for a first offence and six demerit points for a subsequent second offence.

Some international companies have perpetuated in conducting illegal car-hiring services with their reportedly strong financial support. As shown in advertisements, the ulterior motive seems to be destruction of our taxi industry, which is established by the Queensland Transport Legislation. As a responsible government, I pledge to the parliament that the law should be enforced efficiently. We need to disprove the propaganda in that we should not say goodbye to the taxi industry. Given that the demerit points are more lenient than suspension of car registration (as how the state of New South Wales carried out their enforcements), there are no plausible objections against this proposed law amendment.

Although some people claim that Queensland is not accepting new technology, I would argue that new technologies are welcome but on the condition that they are law-biding.

b. Facts for the Argument

Some IT companies are, as the saying goes, “putting old wine into new bottles”.

After the two world wars, Europe has begun developing taxi services and public transportations. However, IT companies are currently attempting to reverse all these modernization efforts when every vehicle (or being private cars temporarily at this moment) can be turned into a hired car under their self-proclaimed control.

If these attempts to “knock-down our society” go unchecked, the lawless era would soon dawn upon us. Under the hypothetical scenario of demise of transport law and the collapse of the taxi industry, the IT industries would without doubt, take over. Hypothetically, a day would come when the

Queensland Government should call it enough in the following progressive degeneration in terms of severity:

- a. Each car becomes a “hired car” and a passenger can be picked up on the street by a unmarked car under the steer of unidentified driver, together with price bargain.
- b. Multiple passengers sharing on a car or van working as a bus.
- c. Coach/bus/van sharing for many passengers to a single destination.
- d. Motorbikes and scooters sharing.
- e. So called sharing of rickshaw or horse

All the above are not jokes but had been put into practice in war-torn Europe and are working daily in many third world countries. We therefore need to act fast and steadfastly to uphold our civilization gain with transportation law.

Countries across the globe are banning the illegal taxi services in 2015 by the highest court and parliament together with putting up stiff penalties. The long list of bans includes that from the French highest Constitutional Court, South Korea Parliament, Spain and Netherlands. In addition, Hong Kong impounded illegally operating cars; the People Republic of China and Macau issue specific licensing requirements for hired cars to ensure compliance with regulations. The bans on illegal car sharing across multiple jurisdictions are not coincidental but a response to a blatant infringement of local laws.

These all attest to the global expectations that the IT industry shall comply with the transport law. The self proclaimed virtues above the transport regulation of Queensland and “good-bye” to taxi industry should NOT be justifications to law breaking with a view to taking transport regulations back to the Middle Ages.

Given that somehow and somewhere that the law must be enforced, we ought to institute an effective sanction. For that, the proposed amendment is fully justified. It is evident that the recent judgment against car sharing in London shows that private taxi companies are no matches against international corporations over litigation in fine legality. Fast and firm action must be taken in Queensland to safeguard our law, our sovereign, and our transport industry.

D. Negative Impacts of the Proposed Amendments

If you are a law abiding citizen, there will be no negative impacts from these proposed amendments. Entrepreneurial spirits are always welcome as long as they comply with Queensland Law. If needed, a hired-car operator can apply for hired car license similar to that in other jurisdictions which banned IT car sharing. There are no reason for flouting the transport law and incidental taxation requirements. In specific, we have to regulate whether moonlighting car-sharing driver like those in the United States is proper (of course, gun carrying by US driver is reported to be illegal). It is noteworthy that a car-sharing app is attached to the phone but not the unmarked, unlicensed and uninsured car.

The economic forecast models being perpetuated are great so long as they do not bring us back to the Middle Age or Third World Country. It would not be the interest of this Parliament to hypothetically see one day that a swamp of vans or scooters start running in Brisbane or Gold Coast since “sharing” of them obviously would offer the cheapest fare with multiple customers and destinations, not to mention about price bargain on street for maximizing return. All of them are intangible factors extrinsic to the pure financial considerations. Law, sovereign and safety should come first.

Also, the economic models might negate the corporate responsibilities. It is expected a reputable hired car service/company would have scheduled vehicle maintenance program-cum-safety and appearance check; regular equipment update with the latest technology; proper employment obligation and engagement terms; services to be disabled and remote places in inclement weather and odd hours; fixed rate for transport and etc. Who would provide these essential non-monetary services except the highly disciplined taxi industry? Have the IT industry without a hired car put any weight to these terms and conditions of services? If the economic models have not internalized these non-monetary values, the credibility of economic models definitely should be questioned.

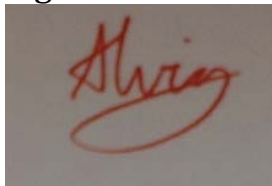
E. Conclusion

There is no objection against embracing new technologies. But new technologies should not be used as an excuse to break the law, through dismantling a well-regulated transport system or taxi industry with a view to bringing the society back to the Middle Age. Fast and firm sanction is required to uphold our law, of which this amendment is for. If the Indian government is already regulating motorized rickshaws for Uber, I think we can definitely do more.

Personal Data

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A square image showing a handwritten signature in red ink. The signature appears to be 'Alvin' written in a cursive style.

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