

17th October 2015

Research Director

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane.

Re – Transport Legislation [Taxi Services] Amendment Bill 2015 [the bill]

Dear Sir/Madam,

We support the proposed Katter Australia Party Bill. Our family have been involved in the Queensland Taxi Industry since 1984, as owners drivers and operators and have seen the advancement our industry has made in the past 30 plus years from hand held two way radio to the hi-tec cars we have today equipped with computer dispatch, GPS tracking, Safety cameras and drivers that are trained and fully security checked by the relevant authorities. Countless years of knowledge, experience and safely servicing the community is important and cannot be dismissed as easily as Uber is doing.

Our biggest concern with the Bill is that it does not go nearly far enough and Governments lack of willingness to address the issue either through legislation or enforcement, has been coming for two years.

Since the current and previous Government have done little to enforce the current laws prohibiting the Uber type mobile phone apps, this billion dollar American multinational has arrived in Queensland and has completely ignored our laws and regulations, cease and desist letters from the Government in power and have effectively started an illegal, unlicensed and unregulated taxi company.

Taxis have been regulated in Queensland and many other parts of the world for the simple reason of "Customer Service" and all have been happy to work within these regulations. If you can do as Uber does you will only work (ie. transport people) when it is convenient for you and not when the moving people demand it (ie anybody anywhere anytime). Our family have over 2.5 million invested in this industry and have been diligent in making sure vehicles were on the road working 24/7. An Uber driver who has nothing invested in this industry has no reason to service people in the outlying areas, our indigenous people, the disabled, the intoxicated, children or anyone else they deem as unsuitable. They do as they wish and treat

the profession as a hobby rather than a job. Without regulation service to the public WILL suffer, without regulation Governments without the fortitude to enforce it in the face of a PR media spin campaign, service will decline and prices will rise.

The Governments feeble attempts to fine a few drivers (none since June by Taxi Council Qld records) has failed to work as Uber just pays the fines with no impact on the drivers, It is very small change for Uber, imagine if the large tankers travelling of our coastline paid \$1700.00 fine every time they discharged their waste and sludge onto the Great Barrier Reef... That would be far cheaper than actually complying with Environmental Acts, the whole country would be outraged.

The KAP Bill seeks to accrue demerit points against individual illegal drivers who are breaking the law by transporting the public for money. This we feel is a step in the right direction as with no illegal drivers there is no illegal service. It needs to go further and deregister the car, as well as they have done in NSW. This gets rid of the illegal vehicle also. While it is true there may be people willing to risk bankruptcy and public safety by driving an uninsured car on public roads demerits points may stop a few of the people who actually think seriously about what they are doing.

We have concerns about the wording of the proposed S70A[2], the word "may" should be changed to "must". A law is no good if they can smart talk their way out of it with a high priced lawyer. Remember this multinational has more money than the Queensland Government.

We also suggest adding to the monetary value of the fine, \$1700.00 is not a great amount when they are risking the lives and safety of both passengers they are carrying and the general public as neither are covered by ANY insurance as the driver is operating illegally.

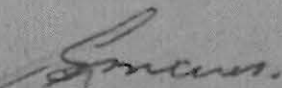
As stated previously this will all be useless unless the Government enforces the law. The Government cannot choose to enforce laws on the taxi industry while ignoring the Uber type offences, otherwise we may all decide not to obey the laws that are forced on our industry.

The Laws are the Law we do not get to choose which we will enforce and which will be ignored and neither should Uber.

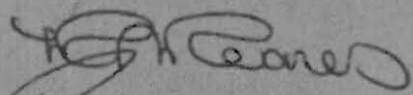
Please contact if any further information needed.

Thanking you

Gordon Meares



Marie Meares



Rodney Meares



Marie Meares

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