

Submissions to the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit fare submission to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

I am writing as a business owner that is directly impacted by the recent spate of illegal taxi operators in QLD. My business, fare media, is only a recent start-up in the taxi space. We offer a touchscreen, interactive TV network to passengers through our touchscreen tablets that are located in the passenger side headrest of some taxis in SE QLD. Essentially our business model is to rent space from the taxi companies and then sell advertising time on our network.

Although our business is new we have been in planning and development for 2 years to bring this network to life. We have consulted with the TMR, Taxi council QLD and with the fleet owners and operators. Our business is reliant on passenger numbers and accurate passenger information. The figures that we have allowed for in starting our business, to base our media prices on, have change significantly due to the impact of illegal taxi services. This has resulted in lower media prices and turnover for us, as we no longer have the passenger numbers that we were originally quoted.

I understand that competition can potentially have an impact on any business, however the competition in our case is operating illegally and in unregulated vehicles. In our case if legitimate and **even** competition was established then we would simply deal with the new fleet operator and get our passenger numbers to the same point as we originally planned.

In respect to the bill that is under your current consideration there should be no reason for it not to be passed, if someone is operating a motor vehicle in illegal manner and without the correct licensing and training then that is a safety hazard that should be dealt with harshly. We believe that with these laws implemented they would have a positive impact on our passenger numbers and reverse some of the damage done. We believe that it would also force illegal operators to legitimise their business model by becoming a fleet owner and employer thus creating the competition that everyone is so happy to promote.

Furthermore as a resident of QLD I am appalled that this activity has been allowed to go on for so long when the impact to the greater community can be so great. I ask that if possible that you audit the claims made by the parties involved so we can have law based on fact, not on opinion and popularity. I am shocked at the ACT's proposed legislation does not require all parties to pay the same fees, the same insurance, face the same reporting and have the same safety standards applied. To me this is a massive disadvantage to an established, tax paying industry and flies in the face of **even** competition.

Regards,
Luke O'Connor

