

To whom it may concern:

I wish to present my submission supporting the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

The issuing of fines to illegal taxi service drivers has had no effect on this illegal operation. Therefore I strongly support the implementation of the proposed Amendment Bill 2015 which would provide for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a peak demand taxi permit.

**About Us:**

My husband and I have owned a taxi and he was a driver of that taxi for over 20 years. We bought the taxi as a business from an existing owner paying \$350,000 for the licence. We then bought a second licence in partnership with our daughter and son in law in 2003 also from an existing owner paying \$520,000 which included government stamp duty \$14,500 and Gold Coast Taxi Company shares \$45,000. My daughter, her husband and my husband and I all borrowed the money to purchase this second licence. Repaying the loan has been a struggle, especially for my daughter as it was hoped that the licence would maintain its purchase price.

Therefore, we naturally support the amendment bill and trust it will deter the increase of illegal taxi services in Queensland.

I would like to add the following comments to the **Reasons for the Bill:**

**The standards and safety of taxi services across the state are threatened:**

- A) Illegal Taxi Services do not comply with Disability Standards. (Taxi Services have special vehicles equipped for the wheel chair bound)  
School children from Special School facilities have been transported faithfully by our Taxi Services for many years (The school run)  
Taxi drivers have safety checks via their drivers licence 24 hours a day (similar to a blue card – where children are involved)  
Assisting passengers from eye hospitals after surgery, collecting dialysis patients on a regular basis (Going into the facility to collect)

**To achieve the best possible public passenger transport at reasonable cost to community & government while facilitating market entry**

**Restrictions in the public interest:**

- B) The Insurance of the illegal taxi service cars is questionable. Licenced taxis are completely covered via insurance and CTP (\$11,200)
- C) Vehicles of the illegal taxi services can be over 9 years old. Licenced taxis are on the road fully repaired & government inspected for a maximum of 6 years.
- D) Licenced taxi owners pay a security safety levy each year so that the passengers have sufficient lighting & security presence during certain times so as to guarantee the passengers safety.
- E) Taxi drivers have been trained, the vehicles have safety cameras installed for safety of passengers as well as drivers.  
The taxi drivers have safety checks via their drivers licence 24 hours a day. (Similar to a blue card)

- F) The Queensland Government presently has control of the metered fare via the Transport Department. Illegal taxi services distort the fare price by enabling surge pricing.

**Illegal taxi services erodes the integrity and viability of the taxi licensing scheme administered by the Queensland Government.**

- G) Taxis offer a passenger transport service that is universally available to all persons, there is no bias involved. Passengers requiring transport do not have to own a credit card or own a smart phone etc.
- H) The government has regulated the taxi industry for many years. They obtain money via fees, charges, stamp duty on sales of licences and the tender of new licences when required. The illegal taxi services contribute none of this to the economy.
- I) The loss of Government control will eventually have a detrimental effect on the transport industry.

I once again would like to add that I present this submission and support the **Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 providing for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a peak demand taxi permit.**

Yours faithfully,



Dorothy McCallum