

Geoffrey & Robyn McKinnon

20TH October 2015

SUBMISSION

Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015

We wish to begin by offering our congratulations to the Katter Australia Party for its foresight in introducing this bill to amend the State Penalties Act, to provide for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a Taxi Service Licence, and to request that this Amendment Bill be implemented in full.

We have been taxi operators for many years, now third generation, and have seen many changes to our industry, but none so treacherous as the current threat of invasion by a foreign aggressor, which will result in a dramatic reduction of service standards.

It is illegal for us to operate a Passenger Transport Service without an appropriate licence and appropriate conditions being maintained, at a high cost to operators. We have abided by these laws and conditions, and have built a taxi service held in high regard throughout the world.

These laws are in place to protect the public, who are users of the service, and also for the protection of the drivers. No such protection for either party is offered by uber or any other illegal operator of a taxi service, who take no responsibility for the service they provide or any damages resulting from this service, and contribute nothing to our economy, as they pay no fees or taxes.

We have paid in excess of \$500,000 to our State Government, to purchase many of the tendered licences and continue to pay subsequent annual fees and charges. Are we to accept the arrival of foreign invaders to undermine the integrity and viability of our industry, who pay no fees or taxes and have no high outlays such as Reg/CTP insurance etc, and no requirement to replace their vehicles in the same time frame, and would reduce our world class taxi service to a level of degradation and discredit, with no credibility, as is seen in third world countries, which we as Australians, would hesitate to use.

It is with great regret that we observe the inaction of our government in relation to this invasive attack on our fellow business operators and taxpayers, and this weak and passive response, which can only encourage uber and other illegal operators, to believe that they just need to aggressively direct our cowed and weak kneed politicians to bow to

pressure and change our existing laws(which currently offer protection to public and drivers), to allow them to provide a substandard service, and wonder if this is what we can expect if the danger of a wider ranging threat of attack by a foreign invader should reach our shores at any time in the future.

Do the right thing and justify the trust that we taxi operators have placed in our government regulated transport system, and waste no time in banning these illegal foreign invaders.

Yours Faithfully,

Robyn and Geoff McKinnon