

Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George St
Brisbane Qld 4000

14th October 2015

Dear Sir

I am an operator in the taxi industry and have been for 20 years and hopefully can be till I retire. I own/operate 27 taxis. I plan to be a self-funded retiree. I have 101 active drivers which have now decreased to 89 due to lack of their income. Some have informed me that they plan to go on centrelink benefits as it will be better for them. This has been a result of Uber (illegal taxis) stealing their fares.

As a taxi operator I have high expenses (registration \$6500 per car, Government Fees \$500.00+, Company Fees \$900 per month per car, Security Levy \$350+, Insurance \$5000 per car, Liability Insurance \$500 per car, Drivers Personal Accident Insurance \$ 700 per year, QT Inspections (6 monthly) \$150 per year), this is before we get any money from paying passengers. Uber (illegal taxis) haven't got any of these overheads. This makes it an uneven playing field.

By Government Regulations we have to provide a 24/7 service and get penalised for failing to do so whereas Uber (illegal taxis) can pick the eyes out of when to work etc.

The taxi industry charge a metered rate set by the Queensland Government whereas Uber (illegal taxis) do not. Uber drivers withhold there services until surge pricing up to 500% of the fares come into force. Uber drivers can work when they wish without any planning of fatigue management and whilst intoxicated, whereas taxi drivers must have a fatigue management plan and have BAC of 0.00.

Taxi drivers must have a clean police record which is checked daily whereas Uber do not check driver's records daily.

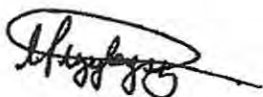
Uber seems to want to operate on its own terms beyond the laws of Queensland. Uber pays NO GST or TAX in Australia as required by Law. Uber pays their drivers penalties when they get caught and sends them back out to break the law again.

This has had a severe monitories impact on my business as well as depleting my drivers. It would seem a considerable number of foreign students are driving for Uber because they are limited to 20 hours a week as taxi drivers. The Uber drivers do not get inspected by police, transport, or immigration officials, so there can work more than 20 hours per week.

It would be beneficial for Uber drivers when caught to be issued 3 demerit points and a personal penalty, as Uber pays the penalty for operating illegal taxi services.

The police should be active in upholding the laws of Queensland as of now, as Uber have been operating illegally since April 2014.

Yours faithfully



Caroline Przybysz

