

John Kalis

To : Infrastructure, Planning, and Natural Resources Committee

Date : Wednesday 21 st October 2015 14.30 Pm

Dear Committee Members,

I welcome this opportunity to make my views and concerns on the K.A.P Proposed Transport Amendment Bill publicly known . I must first mention that as someone who has generally left Government rule us, and not be actively involved in any submission to Parliament, I was aghast at the performance of D.T.M.R officers who attended the Infrastructure, Planning and Resources meeting held on Wednesday 14 th October 2015. Their performance was magnificent in it's incompetence. These people who regulate our industry have no direction. The point was first License in 1975, aged 22, and in 2011 I liquidated my assets and purchased another Brisbane Taxi License in my S.M.S.F . Collectively, we are an Industry that abides by the rule of law and our only protection is through the laws and regulations that have been put in place via you, our elected representatives.

The actions of uber are an abuse of power, and a flagrant disregard for our legal system. Merely fining uber drivers only brings in revenue but does not stymie the operation of uber and it's partners supplying an illegal service. Blind Freddy can see that a different and more concerted approach needs to be undertaken. The proposal to allocate Demerit Points was part of Labor's promise to Queensland prior to their recent election. It is up to us now, at this juncture to ascertain if it was a " Core Promise " or not.

The transportation of Queenslanders has changed markedly since 1975, and so has our Industry. We have adapted and consulted with Government, and expect to function and trade on a level playing field including all new players. I hasten to add that all Regulations that pertain to our industry do us no favours. They are there solely to safeguard the public of Queensland. Some of these measures include :

Age of vehicles

Accreditation of Drivers.

Provision of Wheelchair accessible Taxis mandated at 10% of fleet.

Mandatory Comprehensive Insurance at \$ 6,500.00 per car, per year.

Taxi Fare control via a secure Taxi-Meter.

Surveillance cameras (Replacement of existing with better technology to enable our friends at Q.P.S to more easily identify those who assault us on a daily basis.

Compliance on Safety, Comfort and Mechanical Standards.

All of these and more, add to the cost of running my " Small Business ". To allow another entrant in without the above stringent standards, to me is corruption. Corruption of existing standards, and corruption of the standards of our elected Representatives that allow this to continue. Corruption flourishes when people don't care, or turn a blind eye. Queensland has a long list of corruption in the public domain, and the perception of our Representatives in Parliament is ever present in our minds when we vote !

During my career in the Taxi Industry, I have witnessed the corruption that allowed me to transport passengers to the non-existent Casinos and Brothels in Fortitude Valley. I vividly remember the turmoil of the 1971 Springboks fiasco, and the 1981 SEQEB sackings. While Queenslanders resorted to violence in the streets on a matter of principle, the violence directed towards uber drivers cannot be condoned.

I drive my Taxi full time till 2010 when I had an unpleasant experience with 3 passengers, and other than my mortgaged home , my entire estate, savings and future, what counts for over 40 years is vested in my 2 Licenses.

You must understand, that when Taxi drivers see their income slipping by about 30% and License Holders struggle to attract drivers and adhere to regulations demanding vehicles be available to the public at all times, there is understandable unrest brought about by the culpable lack of enforcement of our laws.

You may well ask who cares ?

I support the Proposed Amendment Bill, and encourage all on the committee to do so also.

Thank you for your consideration

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JOHN KALIS