



Our Ref: RJB:MW:150999

21 October 2015

Infrastructure Planning & Natural Resources Committee

**RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (TAXI SERVICES)  
AMENDMENT 2015**

We act on behalf of the following interested parties heavily involved in the Queensland Taxi Industry:

1. Complete Taxi Management Pty Ltd;
2. Tindera Pty Ltd;
3. Gregory Paul Collins & Maria Collins;
4. Ivory Coast Taxi Management;
5. Alfio & Debbie Intelisano;
6. Mariska intelisano;
7. Vito Intelisano;
8. Frank & Dina Intelisano;
9. John Parnell;
10. Danny Intelisano;
11. Prime Taxi Management;
12. Jan and Tony Coco.

As a specialist representing the Queensland Taxi Industry this representation is also made on our own behalf.

The above commends the introduction of the proposed Bill by 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 peak demand taxi permit.

Principally it is taken that the proposed amendments relate to "ride sharing" arrangements such as Uber.

The present difficulty as we see it is that any TINs issued by the Department provide as the only penalty, fines. It is well documented that the ride sharing services such as Uber pay these fines on behalf of their "partners" and so the fines act as no deterrent whatsoever to those operating the illegal taxi services.

By the introduction of the proposed Bill the relatively simple and straightforward impost of demerit points will achieve the end result of eliminating illegal taxi services.

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As we see it this will mean the following:

- Repeat offenders who flout the laws will accumulate sufficient points such that their licences will be in jeopardy;
- If such persons then apply for Special Hardship Orders, available under other legislation, there would be a strong argument that such persons would not be fit and proper persons to continue to hold a licence due to their continual flouting of these laws which would remove their ability to drive (and thus perform the illegal taxi service);
- The points system would mean that enforcement can become matters then for the Courts for reasons stated above and/or for persons who repeatedly drive and then subsequently drive whilst suspended/disqualified;
- There is also a safety issue because by removing the opportunity for such persons to drive the loophole relating to drink driving laws, ie currently ride sharing drivers can legally drive with a BAC up to .05 will be removed;
- Similarly in relation to vehicle safety (no requirement in relation to vehicles or in relation to vehicle inspections);
- Presently the ride sharing drivers rely upon their mobile phones to receive bookings which they will do whilst driving (an obvious safety issue).

If we can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the writer or any of our clients in this regard.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully  
**rb lawyers**



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