

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: submission - Transport Legislation (Taxi Service) Amendment Bill 2015 10 15
Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2015 3:10:23 PM

TO : Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Subject Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015-10-15

Date 21 October 2015

Dear Committee Members

I wish to support the Bill before you to increase penalties in the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 to deter illegal taxi operators.

If illegal taxi operators continue to operate the value of taxi licences will continue to decline and the owners and associated businesses will face financial ruin. At present we don't have a saleable asset.

If the Government doesn't take immediate action and stop these illegal operators, then is the Government prepared to buy our licences for the value at the time the Cease and Desist Order was issued in May 2014.

Illegal Activity

UBER were given a cease and desist order by the Queensland Government May 2014.

I was bought up with the belief that if something was illegal then you didn't do it.

Obviously the Department of Transport are struggling with the implementation of penalties.

The police should be brought in as it is a criminal offence.

Uber is advertising on the radio, setting up stalls in shopping centres and at local events and having regular recruiting evenings. All their locations are available on Facebook why isn't the police there issuing fines.

The government brought in Biker laws to prevent organised crime and they are not allowed to congregate in groups, yet Uber recruiters and drivers performing illegal activities have not been shut down.

My recommendation is

- Department of Transport office display on screens and posters that Uber driving is an illegal activity
- Educate call centre and office staff regarding the status of Uber
- Persons requesting a Driver Accreditation should be given a written flyer showing that Uber driving is illegal
- Engage a third party company to implement compliance and surveillance of the illegal activities.
- Send out a letter to every person holding a Driver Accreditation informing them that using their private vehicle for ride sharing and accepting payment for the ride is illegal.

Penalties

I believe the penalties should be tougher and should include:

- Increased fines
- Demerit points for drivers
- Loss of licence
- Impounding and seizing of vehicles
- Destruction of vehicles for repeat offenders

My personal situation

I'm a single self-employed 43 year old female

I currently own 3 licences.

I paid the Queensland Government for 1 of my licences which was purchased through the Queensland Transport tender process and 2 purchased on the open market.

I have adhered to all the government regulations. I'm a law abiding, tax paying citizen.

These licences had a value of \$1,530,000 in August 2014 including company shares and excluding vehicles and equipment. This assessment is made taking an average of the last 3 sales provided by the Department of Transport at that time.

My taxi licences are now not saleable. There is nobody out there that will invest in the taxi industry given the current uncertainty.

Since the commencement of Uber I have been losing between 12 to 18 shifts per month which greatly impacts on my income.

The drivers who were previously driving the prime shifts on my car eg Friday and Saturday night are now driving from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane to drive for Uber.

Funding

I have invested my personal wealth in the 3 taxi licences which was to provide me with an income and later on fund my retirement. I owe \$405,000 against these 3 licences.

I do not own any residential property, I rent.

What you may or may not know is that it is difficult to get funding at the best of times secured against taxi plates alone. I can only get funding for a 2 year period and my loan expires next year.

This is my problem. With all the adverse media attention I am very fearful that my loan facility will not be extended and worst case I will have to repay the \$405,000 or the bank will ask for a contribution to reduce the loan to value ratio.

In any event this puts me in a very dire position. I don't have the funds to repay this debt.

I have \$100,000 in super. I have enquired about getting access to my super funds on the basis of hardship should my loan not be renewed. I was told that I was not able to get access to these funds until I had been on government assistance for 26 weeks and then you could only access the funds if your home was going into receivership. So I can't access my super to be able to assist me in this crisis as a result of government legislation.

Action

The Queensland Government has to stop this illegal activity immediately.

Should the Government not take immediate action to prevent further destruction of the taxi industry then the government needs to buy our licences for the value at the time the cease and desist order was given in May 2014.

Thank you

Alison Casey

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