

We are writing in support of the private member's Bill, the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015, presented by the Member for Mount Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, on 16 September 2015.

There is an emerging illegal taxi trend in Queensland. This illegal taxi activity is being facilitated by a large multinational corporation that has attacked several countries around the world. Equally they have been shut down in several progressive countries including Germany and now France.

In Queensland there has been no deterrent to the illegal taxi drivers and their facilitator. When fines have been issued to the illegal drivers by TMR, the company facilitating their activity has paid the fines.

The consequences of driving an illegal taxi must be applied to the individual in such a way that it cannot be transferred to another party. Only then can the Queensland State Government uphold the regulations and laws they have imposed on the Queensland taxi industry.

This Bill will achieve a personal consequence for illegal taxi drivers choosing to drive unregulated, unlicensed and against the Transport Legislation.

The Taxi industry represents our family's livelihood. We began in the industry in 1989 with a licence as owner/drivers. While this licence has sustained our family, it now is sustaining us in our retirement – providing us with the superannuation income that was not otherwise afforded to us.

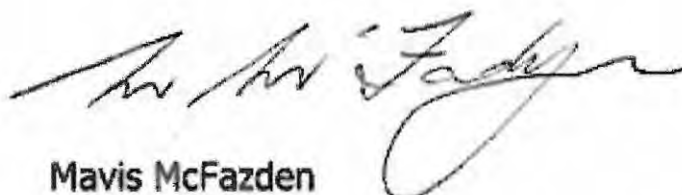
The attacks by illegal taxi drivers on our industry are threatening to destroy our livelihood – our independence from the Government Pension and health care system.

If the Queensland Government continues to allow illegal taxis to destroy the industry they have monopolised through immense costs, regulations and laws then they must also be culpable for the damage that this will cause to us, our families and over 2000 other legal, regulated taxi licence owners and their families around Queensland.

We implore all Politicians to vote in favour of this Bill. The Bill must be passed by the Parliament to help put some stability back into the taxi industry that this State created.



Shane Cooper



Mavis McFazden

