From: Maurie Newell
To: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Submission
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Submission to Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee - in support of Katter Party Bill re demerit points for illegal taxi drivers (ie, Uber).

I support this bill, though I would support any action taken to ban illegal taxi drivers, ie Uber. My reasons include:

* As a current 'cabbie', I am offended by the fact that Uber drivers do not have Industry Authority licences nor are their vehicles subject to Dept of Transport inspection. They do not pay the costs associated with these actions. This is unfair. There is no level playing field here.
* The arrival of Uber/illegal drivers has meant that the available amount of custom and work for genuine drivers has been diluted. This has had a significant impact on my income and the living standard of myself and my family. This is also unfair.
* The amount of stress in my personal life has increased since the arrival of Uber. I work longer hours, have less income to pay household expenses with, have more worry about budgetary matters and paying debt and tax, spend less time with my young family, and so on. Some stress in life is normal, but to have it sharply increased by the actions of an illegal operation is unacceptable and unnecessary.
* The actions of illegal taxi drivers are increasingly brazen and in the open. This can create resentment and lead to tensions which should not be there. As an example, an Uber driver used the dedicated taxi lane at the Domestic Airport the other day to drop off his passenger. He should have used the pubic parking area. This is just plain cheeky and 'over the top'. There are various other examples of such behaviour as we'll.

I could detail other reasons, but this will suffice for now. I fully support this Bill as any action against the illegal operators and drivers is a step in the right direction. However, it is well known that they are illegal, so I fully support the banning of these people and the ending of their illegal activities at the earliest opportunity.

Maurie Newell
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