

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to present my support and arguments for: **1) the immediate introduction of demerit points for those providing an unlicensed taxi service and; 2) establishment of a level playing field for those providing taxi services.** I present this in support of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

My parents drove cabs for 30 years to pay off their taxi licence, support the family and retire without pension support. They worked minimum 12 hour days, every day of the year, including Christmas and public holidays. We had only one family holiday the entire time I was growing up. **As Taxi licence holders, my parents obeyed Queensland taxi industry legislation and regulations, contributed GST, paid taxes and government regulatory fees, taxi industry fees and public liability insurance.** Now their livelihood and that of thousands of other Queensland taxi drivers and licence holders is threatened by an illegal enterprise, which current law enforcement agencies are failing to act on.

The so-called "ride-sharing" service is little more than an organised crime model that locks government compliance officers out of the system to avoid detection, side-steps all regulations, pays no taxes or fees and ignores all legal challenges. Publicly advertised and identified as **UberX, this offshore multinational facilitates an unregulated, illegal taxi service that puts public safety at risk, significantly reduces government tax and fee revenue, increases government financial burden (with previously self-funded people turning to welfare), and destroys the livelihood of thousands of everyday small business people in Queensland.**

The need to police illegal taxi services is urgent, because many taxi licence holders are at the point of bankruptcy or in a state of financial limbo at best. Until the Taxi industry Strategic Plan Review is complete and recommendations implemented, **UberX and the illegal taxi service they facilitate remains illegal.** Simple fines are apparently ineffective. **Imposing penalty points on drivers is one simple way to immediately improve law enforcement efforts.** These points are not transferable and can only be carried by the illegal taxi drivers providing the illegal taxi service.

The costs of running a legal taxi service in Queensland should be considered when deciding whether or not it is fair to allow illegal taxis to continue operating against State Government Laws and avoiding regulations, fees and taxes. A Queensland taxi licence costs \$450-500,000 (although at present this value is now non-existent as no one is buying the 200+ licences for sale due to the state imposed by illegal taxis operating), CTP insurance and registration costs \$7000 per year per vehicle, comprehensive insurance costs \$7000, cars must be less than 6 years old (\$35000 cost to replace and fit out every 6 years), 20% of the fleet must provide service for the disabled, taxi security levy approx \$380 per year, taxi industry fees of \$10,000 per year, security cameras at \$400 each, service licence renewal fee \$165 per year, operator accreditation \$165 per year, vehicle inspections \$140 per year, licence fees \$120 per year. **Taxi overheads are approximately \$30,000 per year, per vehicle,** even before the costs of maintenance, GST, licence costs and income taxes are considered.

Legal taxi owners and drivers would welcome industry reforms that reduce consumer costs, such as reduced fees, changes to fare structure and flexibility, as well as an overhaul of the cabcharge system. These small business people are not against competitors entering the game, as long as they play by the rules. These factors should all be considered as part of the Strategic Review. However, if the illegal taxis are freely permitted to continue operations in their current form while the review is underway, the Taxi industry will not remain viable. It will not survive such an unfair, illegal onslaught.

Below is a USA video which will provide you with some more information about Uber's mode of operation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXt0IG3IRZQ>

Yours sincerely



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