

Submission to Parliamentary Committees

With regard to the Transport legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill

Introduced by Mr. Katter (Mount Isa-KAP) (4.08 PM)

- Presently there is no effective provision in the Act to deter Drivers from operating illegal taxi service in Queensland, the operation of such taxi service in clearly outside the intended guide lines set in place by Queensland Government.
- Illegal taxi services operators have the potential to threaten the safety of the users of these systems.
- Taxi operators and drivers in Queensland are governed by strict codes of practice and face harsh penalties for offences.
- Taxi industry is under threat from these illegal operators, all taxi licenses holders have invested large sum of money in to their business, they employ staff, and in most cases they employ several staff all of who pay tax and work hard earn an honest living.
- The taxi industry returns in excess of \$90 million in GST alone Illegal taxi operators return almost ZERO
- Taxi operators who have entered the industry in the correct and proper manner, where forced to purchase a license for a considerable amount, this is the only way to enter the taxi industry in in Queensland, all operators of illegal taxi services are operating illegally.
- The current infringement notices are ineffective to say the least, as I understand the current situation there has been a number of fines handed out (1500 +) and the number illegal operators are still increasing

The Queensland Government needs to protect the industry that it has created and controlled, not let unauthorized drivers operating for a non-tax paying Multinational undermine this industry and put the lives of passengers at risk.

Paul Masterson

