

To whom it may concern,

I would like to present a submission supporting the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

Fines given to illegal taxi services have no impact on their illegal operation. I strongly support the implementation of the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. This would provide for recording of gradually increased demerit against the traffic history of persons providing taxi services without a taxi services licence or peak demand taxi permit.

My wife and I are part owners in a taxi on the Gold Coast. Our licence was purchased in 2005. We had to borrow the money to purchase this business and have saved hard to pay back this loan. We obviously support the amendment bill and hope it serves as a deterrent to illegal taxi services in Queensland.

I would further like to add the following comments to the **Reasons for the Bill** :

Safety and Standards of taxi services in Queensland are jeopardised

1. Taxi drivers have stringent background checks that allow them to work transporting children from mainstream and special schools. The blue card type checks provide a vital layer of protection. Our taxi provides this service on a daily basis. Illegal taxis do not carry out daily criminal checks on drivers.
2. Our taxi provides older Australians with a service that can be paid for by cash. Many of the older Australians who use taxis do not have credit cards so illegal taxi operators will not service this population. Illegal taxis apply a surge pricing system that discriminates against the old and lower socio-economic demographic.
3. Illegal taxi services do not provide assistance for disabled people. There is no compliance or regard for equity with Disability standards. Conventional Taxi operators provide this important service.

To assist the best possible public passenger transport at reasonable cost to the community and government whilst facilitating market entry requires some important regulation.

4. Illegal taxis do not have appropriate insurance. The Australian Insurance Council confirms that they operate outside the boundaries of their private insurance, . Taxi cars are covered by insurance and CTP (\$11,200 pa)
5. Legal taxis provide a high degree of protection for passengers and drivers through the in- car recording devices, GPS tracking and alarm systems. Illegal taxi provide no moral or legal protection for passengers in the event of personal harm.

6. Taxi cars are safer because they are limited to being 6 years old. Illegal taxis can be 9 years old.

7. Illegal taxis do not provide anyone with tax file numbers so the Australian Government will lose tax revenue.

8. Legal taxis employ trained drivers whilst illegal taxis have no training.

I once again would like to add that I present this submission and support the **Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 providing for the recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or peak demand taxi permit.**

Regards,



Lindsay Brown

