

Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George St.
Brisbane, QLD.

Dear Sir,

My family conducts a small business. We operate 27 taxis. We had 102 active taxi drivers but since illegal taxis services (Uber and others) have started operating, the number of active taxi drivers has come down to 91. The drivers that have ceased driving taxis have said that their income has dropped by an average of \$200 per week.

They say that they cannot work in an uneven playing field, so they intend to go on Newstart payments. When my drivers are losing \$200.00 per week in income that means my business is losing \$200.00 per week per taxi.
From July to September quarter in 2015 my gross taxi takings are down \$124,000.00 as compared to the same quarter 2014.

The bullying American company Uber has not played by the laws and regulations of our State. They do not pay GST or Australian Tax. The money received from each fare with Uber goes directly out of AUSTRALIA, whereas our taxi drivers pay GST and Australian Tax.

This Uber (illegal taxi service) does not provide a 24/7 service as required by Queensland regulations. They surge price when demand is high.

All the Queensland regulations about taxis are there to provide safe travel for the travelling public, not for drivers benefit. The Queensland Government has instructed all taxis to replace their security cameras by 2018 at the current price of \$3500.00 each. It is not a fair or even playing field as Uber (illegal taxis) do not have to comply with any of our laws and regulations.

Disability services are provided by the taxi industry heavily cross subsidizing wheel chair accessible services with regular and high occupancy services. Uber (illegal taxis) DOES NOT provide this wheelchair service. Overtime if the service does not stay viable it will diminish. We also carry DVA and do urgent items for pathology. Uber (illegal taxis) DO NOT. We have added costs of running our business CTP/Rego is \$6500.00, we pay Taxi Industry Security Levy of \$395.00 or more each year. Operator Accreditation Fees etc.

I would welcome competition if it was on a level playing field with the same costs as taxis.

Our drivers are trained by the R.T.O for a week and then mentored till they become proficient cab drivers.

The income produced from the taxi licences I own were for my wife and myself so that we are self-funded retirees. We do not wish to be a burden on the government Welfare System. Also my family (daughter and sons) want to continue on with the business when we retire.

Please tell the Government that the Police need to start immediately to uphold and enforce the current Laws and give the illegal taxis tickets and summons.

The law needs to be changed so that illegal taxi drivers are penalized with demerit points and a personal fine not just a third party (Uber) paying the infringement penalty. We need it as of November 2015 as the owners, operators and drivers may not be here come late 2016.

I am available to talk to you any time.

Yours Faithfully,

S. Przybysz. Stefan Przybysz.

Stefan Przybysz.

