

Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George St  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir

I am an owner of a Taxi plates which I have owned for 25 years.

I purchased this Licence as an investment for my retirement, I now lease out my licence now as I am beyond retirement age.

The value of my licence now has eroded since the coming of the Illegal Ride Share Company Uber.

Uber is an illegal taxi service operating outside the Transport Act, which requires anyone plying for hire should be affiliated with a call centre, drivers take a 2 week course to become a licensed taxi driver, cars have to be no more than 6 years old, and must have complete accident, personal third party and comprehensive insurances.

The taxi industry is governed by the transport act. Third Party Insurance for a taxi is \$6500, Security Levy \$360+, Comprehensive Insurance \$5000, Personal & Customer Insurance \$800 (Max cover \$20 million) whilst Uber has none of these imposed as they say they are only a ride sharing operation. My understanding of ride share is if a person with a car and another person going in the same direction can share, but to keep accepting jobs from an app and driving all over the place picking up passengers is a taxi service.

To my mind Uber does have insurance but that policy is in America and only to the value of \$7 million.

Uber has deep pockets, they pay the fines of drivers therefore the driver gets no penalty at all, I support the Katter amendments to the transport act for Uber drivers, they should get demerit points first time & 6 points next time they are caught. There should be a penalty on the customer as well as they are breaking the law by catching one of these Illegal cars.

Taxis have a set maximum price they can charge up to that price but not above. Uber on the other hand can & do charge what they like whilst they charge 20% below a taxi fare, on busy times their price can be up to 500% more, as you may know that during the "Lindt Siege" they started to charge \$100 just to get out of the city until the public arched up, then they dropped it to Free rides.

The driver shortage now is caused by Uber, because drivers are leaving the taxi industry for Uber where they do not have to collect GST and pay No Tax once there, they build up a client base then get a eftpos terminal, then drive for themselves no checks any anyone.

People say that Uber has better technology than the cab companies. Cab companies in Queensland have had an app 12 months before Uber arrived. The data collected by these companies & give to the Department (by Law) far outweighs any that Uber collects.

There are cab depots of many years standing that are about to go to the wall because of the inaction of Governments to reign in the illegal services if previous Governments had put a stop to Uber the industry would be much more healthier.

The present government should take the shackles off the police and let them do their job enforcing the law.

I find it very insulting when a foreign national company comes into this country and says to the Government of the day we don't care about your laws; you have to change them to suit us.

Weak Australian governments have caused this and they should fix the problem or compensate the taxi owners who have done nothing more than simply honour their contract with them.

In closing all we ask for is a level playing field and ask for the Government to back their own legislation.

  
Darryl Briaes

