


From:   
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)  
Subject: Submission  
Date: Thursday, 22 October 2015 2:59:36 PM

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Dear Committee,

**Please remove my name and all contact details from this submission**

Submission RE: Illegal taxi services

from:



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It is essential that the Qld Parliament urgently pass whatever laws are required to stop all illegal taxi services in Qld.

As it stands, the current Qld Parliament is overseeing the destruction of \$1.4 billion of Qld assets (the life savings held by individuals and families associated with the Qld taxi industry) that provide an income that goes straight back into the Qld economy and that, in retirement, would provide an asset (the value of the taxi service licence) that can be sold and that money spent in the Qld economy - with all taxes paid in Australia.

Failure to effectively enforce Qld laws over the past 18 months, has seen a marked erosion in the income produced by, and in the value of the assets (Taxi Service Licences) held by law abiding Queenslanders, and the corresponding enrichment of a foreign multinational corporation with money lost from the Australian tax base, money lost from the Queensland economy, and money effectively taken directly from law abiding Queenslanders.

It is worth noting that even "Australia's chief tax collector has taken the extraordinary step of accusing the Uber ride-sharing service of making public statements it knows to be false" (<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/uber-tax-commissioner-accuses-rideshare-service-of-making-false-public-statements-20151021-gkerjo.html>).

Please pass urgent legislation to ensure:

- that ALL Qld laws can be effectively enforced
- that any changes made to regulations governing 'ride-share' type services are done with due consideration **after** the outcome of the Review is known,
- that taxi services in Qld are safe, secure, and for the provision of services to ALL Queenslanders (including the disabled and people who may be intoxicated etc - Uber cannot take people with electric wheelchairs and Uber drivers openly admit that they do not pick up passengers who they believe are unsavoury or who may soil their private vehicle or who have low passenger ratings),
- that law abiding Queenslanders who have been providing an essential community service (licensed taxi transport) are not penalized for obeying all Queensland laws
- that foreign companies that have blatantly disregarded Qld laws are **NOT** rewarded for facilitating the provision of illegal (taxi) services
- that community access to the streets and transport infrastructure in Qld are NOT overwhelmed by unnecessary and excessive traffic congestion and pollution as a result of ongoing illegal taxi services

that, as a result of ineffective enforcement of Qld laws and ongoing illegal taxi services, money and assets are not forcibly taken (without compensation) from law abiding Queenslanders and effectively transferred to foreign companies that have not obeyed Qld laws and that the Australian Tax Commissioner has claimed to have publicly made statements it knew to be false.

In the interests of an open market and free competition in the taxi industry in Qld, if Uber wants to provide taxi services in Qld, they can simply abide by existing legislation, purchase the number of taxi service licences they require, use compliant vehicles, use their app to enable taxi booking (thus competing with Black and White, Yellow etc), and meet all existing government mandated service level requirements - including timely access for all passengers in all areas, & services for the disabled (with electric wheelchairs, scooters etc). Then and only then (& without providing free or heavily discounted trips as an inducement to gain popularity or market share), will it be possible for their product to be openly assessed in the marketplace - if their legitimate and legally compliant product is better, they will gain market share legitimately.

Thanks