

Research Director  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

22 October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write in support of The Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

The illegal entry of Ride Sharing services such as uber, that skirt current written legislation, threatens the livelihood of not just the many directly employed, owners and operators, but also the indirect business this industry generates.

It is clear that illegal Ride Sharing services are favourable to some of the community simply because they offer an introductory service at lower cost. This low cost service is both unsustainable in the long term and achieved by not being subject to overheads that are born from complying with fair regulation.

The regulation that we have seen developed over the many years in partnership with the government, to serve our community are:

- Local driver Authorisation and training
- Capped pricing for fares
- Standardised surveillance cameras in all vehicles
- Thorough Transport and Main Roads vehicle inspections
- Locally monitored GPS tracking and security cameras triggered to aid help in the event of an emergency
- A BAC of 0.00 for all Taxi drivers on shift
- Mandated and locally provided 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Public Liability Insurance
- Service Level Agreements on pickups for all passengers (including those with disabilities)
- A call centre where customers can make bookings, complaints and seek lost property

Most importantly, these regulations have been put in place to encourage predictable levels of service and safety for our community, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The hundreds of small business that make up the taxi industry in Queensland abide by these regulation.

The Taxi Industry in Queensland contributes millions of dollars in GST that flows back to the state for the benefit of Queenslanders. Many of the Ride Sharing companies are international companies that participate in profit shifting to minimise their exposure to local taxation. uber is locked in a publicly watched court battle with the ATO to try to avoid paying the GST that should flow back to Queensland, helping to improve our local economy.

Having a new service enter the market illegally (as uber has done) creates an unfair playing field at the expense of the community.

Overall, the illegal injection of this service to the Queensland market both undermines the government and its ability to uphold its laws and protect the community. It sets a dangerous precedence for start-ups and “digital disruptors”, where they will assume that somehow, local laws no longer apply to their business and that responsible and sustainable business models are not required. Overwhelmingly, we feel it sends a message to the community that Government believe skirting legislation, lowering standards and offshoring profits to provide low cost local services is acceptable.

We urge you to support The Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015, which proposes to increase penalties through the demerit points system for those operating a taxi service without a licence.

Yours respectfully,  
The Juppenlatz Family

(Taxi Operators for 28 years)