

From: [AT AUTO REPAIRS](#)
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Submission - Private and Confidential
Date: Thursday, 22 October 2015 3:40:36 PM
Attachments: [Old Government Submission.docx](#)

Hi

Can you please accept my submission against Uber and similar ride sharing apps

Regards

Anne

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Thirty five years ago we were living in a rented flat and we scrimped and saved to purchase a taxi licence. This taxi licence went on to provide us with a home and give our three children a good education. It also allowed us to provide our children with experiences they would otherwise not have had. As we now approach our retirement age we were looking forward to this taxi licence supplying us with an income during our senior years and not making us a burden on the Australian Government. If Uber (and other illegal taxi services) is allowed to continue their run of illegal operations then we, like many other Queenslanders will no doubt end up on Government supplied pensions and unemployment, costing millions of dollars yearly.

Uber has entered Australia and other countries around the world with their total lack of regard for the Rules and Laws of the countries and states entered. Many countries around the world have taken a bold step and outlawed Uber to protect their small businesses. Has the Queensland Government got what it takes to do the same? We plead with the Queensland Government to protect our industry against a multi-national overseas Company paying no fees or taxes in Queensland or Australia and be a world leader and do the same and outlaw the illegal taxi service Uber and similar types of services from operating in our state. We are not against competition we are simply against illegal operations and if another taxi service is to start operating then it HAS to be governed by the same Laws, Rules and Regulations and costs that we as Taxi Operators have to operate under.

Every year we (Taxi Licence Owners, Operators and Drivers) pay to the Queensland Government fees for the renewal of our taxi licences and operator accreditations, fees for the inspections of our vehicles on a six monthly basis by Government Inspection Officers, fees for the renewal of our Driver Authorisations, Fees for Security Levies for the safe operation of Taxi Ranks. All these fees are paid to you the Queensland Government. If they were to stop your Government would loose out on a considerable amount of money each year. We abide and respect the Rules and Laws set forth by the Queensland Government. We renew our vehicles every 6 years for a sedan and every 8 years for a maxi taxi so that we may continue complying with the Queensland Government Laws and Regulations. I am at a loss to understand that you the Queensland Government can impose such restrictions on us yet you allow Uber and other such illegal operations to operate illegally without any of these requirements for doing the same job that we are offering. If we were to suddenly say no we are not going to pay these fees then you would come down on us with numerous penalties and fines for operating without the necessary requirements, then why do you continue to allow Uber to operate, clearly with a total disregard for YOUR Government and YOUR Rules, Regulations and Laws?

In Queensland there are 3,264 Taxi Service Licences, with more than 10,000 people directly employed within the taxi industry, all complying with YOUR laws. Then you have all the mechanics, parts suppliers, tyre fitters and suppliers, smash repair workshops, auto electricians and Department of Transport staff probably totaling another 50,000 people, all of whom also earn a living off the taxi industry. Since Uber has started operating illegally in Queensland there has been a downturn in the industry thus affecting the incomes earned by taxi owners, operators, drivers and associated businesses. This is a large number of Queensland voters who will use their powers at the next election if illegal services are allowed to continue.

The taxi industry carries heavy regulations and has always complied with your requests for improvements within our industry.

We have computer dispatch systems and tracking - Uber does not,

We have security cameras installed (at your request) and with voice recording to be introduced in the near future for the safe travelling of the public - Uber does not,

We have GPS tracking of taxis for safety of both the public and our drivers - Uber does not,

We have Government requirements in place for reporting of each and every trip carried in taxis - Uber does not,

We have procedures in place for the return of lost property - Uber does not,

Taxi drivers go through stringent criminal and security checks - Uber does not,

All taxi businesses pay GST - Uber does not,

We have our vehicles inspected every 6 months for safety and compliance - Uber does not,

We carry Class 3 CTP – Uber does not,

We have regular compliance audits to make sure that we are complying with all your Rules and Regulations - Uber does not,

We supply a service to the disabled travelling public – Uber does not,

We supply a 24/7 service – Uber does not

We DO NOT Surge Price – Uber DOES as previously seen

Uber claims that they are not a taxi service but they provide the transportation of passengers from point A to point B for reward, so do we, so how are they not a Taxi Service?

Taxis have been operating with an app for some time before Uber came to Australia so their statement that they offer new technology is a farce.

The Taxi Industry has with the implementation of strict Rules and Regulations by Government and Regulators offered standards to ensure that we offer a service second to none in the world – Uber does not operate or intend to operate by YOUR Regulations and Standards. Queensland taxis have been world leaders in many fields and it would be a shame to see it all go by the wayside because of illegal operators.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk noted in her address at the recent Labour Conference that "...Labor will not tolerate organised crime..." yet illegal taxi services have been operating in Queensland under her nose and who have effectively locked Government compliance officers out of their system to avoid detection whilst continuing to operate. If we were to sell illegal liquor we would be stopped, or to conduct an illegal business we would be stopped, so why has the Queensland Government failed to act for the safety of the public by allowing illegal taxi operators to continue to operate?

We are not against competition in the industry, we are against illegal operations, and all we ask is that the competition be played on a level playing field where all stakeholders are required to abide by legislated regulations, particularly those relating to safety, insurance, licencing and

taxes. If any persons or company choose not to comply with legislated requirements then they should be penalised to the full extent of the law. Clearly Uber will continue to pay the huge amount of fines so far imposed on their drivers so a different approach is called for to ensure we have a system that is fair for all and enforceable.

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

to amend the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to provide 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.

If you as our elected Government wish to continue to allow the illegal taxi services to continue operating then I think you should look at reimbursing all Taxi Owners, Operators and Drivers for their costs for Taxi Licence purchases, many of which were purchased from the Queensland Government under Government Tenders (totalling millions of dollars into the Government), Operator Accreditation Fees, Driver Authorisation Fees, Vehicle Inspection Fees and any other associated fees pertaining to the taxi industry. Only then will we be all competing on a level playing field.

The Taxi Industry is a billion not million but billion dollar business made up of mostly mum and dad businesses struggling to earn an income, it would be a shame to see it deteriorate due to illegal taxi services being allowed to operate without the same standards being applied and put the emphasis for looking after all these people back on the Government.

Does your Government really want to be remembered as the one who signed the death warrant on the Queensland Taxi Industry or would you rather be remembered as the Government who stood up to big overseas business and said comply with our Rules and Regulations or pack your bags and go, you are not welcome with your illegal operations.

Once again we are not against competition in the industry, we are against illegal operations, and we simply ask that the competition be played on a level playing field where all stakeholders are required to abide by legislated regulations, particularly those relating to safety, insurance, licencing and taxes.

We plead with you to do the job you were elected to do and protect small Queensland businesses before it is too late.