

Submission

Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015

I am taxi owner, who has been involved in the taxi industry for over 30 years, initially as a driver and then as a taxi owner purchasing a taxi licence (Wheelchair Accessible) in August 1994 through a Queensland State Government tender. Over the past 30 years I found the Queensland Taxi industry to be very progressive and innovative by using the latest technologies available and willingness to adapt. Along with the legislative changes introduced over this time the Queensland public has a reliable, safe, 24hour7day taxi service that is superior to any other Australian State or Territory.

The current legislation ensures that all members of the community, including the frail, elderly and disable, are able to receive a taxi service. The taxi drivers are protected by compulsory bailment agreements and set pay in rules. Vehicles have age limits are subject to 6 monthly inspections and are fitted with security camera and distress alarms.

The taxi industry is made up of multiple small business persons who are passionate about their industry and have heavily invested their time and money relying on the taxi licence being their Superannuation.

If the illegal taxi services continue to operate due to the current enforcement of legislation being ineffective, it will slowly erode the current business structure of this great industry and cause complete anarchy in the point to point public transport service.

The Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 should be accepted for the following main points;

- The proposed Amendment Bill 2015 does not significantly change existing legislation to State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 and Transport Operations (Road Management) Act 1995, other than the addition of demerit points to the existing monetary penalties.
- The current monetary penalties are ineffective in enforcing current legislation thus allowing illegal taxi services to operate and flourish throughout Queensland.
- Current legislation needs to be enforced due to illegal ride-sharing apps continuing to operate and many other illegal taxi services are now starting up through advertising on facebook, Gumtree etc. These services have definitely not safe.

I look forward to a favourable outcome with the acceptance of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.



John McRoberts