

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been involved in the taxi industry for over 40 years. The industry has supported my family extending to three generations.

Our investment in taxis provided for us at various times throughout our lives. I purchased two licences paying 23% interest during the life of the loans. When no other work was possible, taxis provided me with a job. The income provided my family with the means to live our lives. Now that I am now no longer able to work, the taxis are leased providing me with an income.

I am now attempting to sell my licence to maintain the independence and self-sufficiency; this is not possible.

Well over 60 both me and my wife have worked very hard to understand what is happening to the Queensland Government regulated taxi industry. At our age this presents an on going challenge. I am horrified to learn that illegal taxis running in Queensland are destroying our Queensland Government-sanctioned, legislated and regulated taxi industry.

I am devastated and sickened by the prospect of a worthless licence. I cannot sell my licence without suffering an immense loss. I cannot lease my licences as the income has been reduced by 40% and there are no leasees willing to take responsibility for a taxi. I cannot run the taxis myself for two reasons: (1) I am old and no longer have the physical capability; and (2) drivers no longer want to drive legal, regulated taxis as their income has been eroded so far that the costs outweigh the income they make.

I have NEVER relied on Government handouts. And here we are trying to secure our independence for my family for the remainder of our lives only to learn that this independence could be taken away from us.

The illegal taxi industry facilitated by a smart phone application is unfairly destroying an industry that the Queensland Government has put in place. We do not have a choice about our overheads and expenses. On the other hand, the illegal taxis can run with absolutely no costs or repercussions.

Has the Queensland Government become too arrogant to understand the impact of their decisions?

I am informed and educated about the fines issued by TMR in Queensland to illegal taxi drivers. I understand these have stopped. What's more the Cease And Desist Order has not been enforced by any measures.

Measures must be taken to ensure that illegal taxi drivers are personally penalised in a way that will make them pay for operating illegal taxis and providing an illegal taxi service.

I am now suffering physically and emotionally with unrest at what my life savings may become very soon, worthless.

The Queensland Government who sets the laws, makes the regulations and then forces legal taxi drivers and owners to follow them is culpable.

I ask the Queensland State Parliament to see the errors and inequities of what is currently happening in the Queensland taxi industry – **pass this Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.**



Paul Stavrou

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