

From: [Trafalgar Enterprises](#)
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 Submission
Date: Friday, 23 October 2015 12:12:00 AM

To Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

I write to you as a current Taxi License holder and someone who's family has been in the taxi industry since 1966. For nearly 50 years I like my parents before me and all other licence holders have abided by the State government Transport regulations, paid considerable sums of money first to purchase our licences and then in annual fees and taxes to conform to and satisfy the State Government Transport Act and Regulations and the Federal Tax Act.

Yet it appears now that the State Government through current ineffective legislation is willing to allow any "ride share services" that see fit to operate as a Taxi service in Queensland. One assumes the current legislation is in place to ensure that Taxi industry is viable, provides safe employment for many thousands of Queenslanders both directly and indirectly and last but not least a safe means of transport for all.

I put it to the committee that the current legislation and fines there in are totally ineffective in ensuring that the laws of this state are adhered to. This is currently clearly evident where we have one "ride share / taxi service" operated by an enormous foreign entity "Uber" that disregards Transport Department "cease & desist notices" and pays any fines that its drivers may incur while operating illegally.

As the law currently stands Uber is an illegal operation and breaking the law hundreds if not thousands of times a day in this state yet the state government has failed to act and stop this. Clearly the current legislation is ineffective when dealing with huge cashed up foreign entities such as Uber and needs revision so that the intent of legislation can be enforced.

I believe one could be forgiven for thinking that because of the speed or lack thereof with which the government has acted to stop these illegal activities they in fact prefer to support a large multinational company that is willing to break existing laws daily, pay little or no tax in this country and also use their illegal activities as justification to have the law changed to whatever they want.

I welcome competition from other and new industry participants, but it should and must be on a level playing field which is hopefully what the new independent review of the industry will provide, but in the meantime all taxi industry participants must be made to conform to the existing laws or the laws changed to ensure conformity therewith.

It is well past the time when the government should have made dealing with these illegal activities a priority. I request that the committee support the *Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015* and that time is of the essence here and that the taxi industry cannot wait till March 2016

for these changes and they be enacted as soon as possible.
Everyday Uber continues to operate illegally is one day to many for the
continued viability of Taxi Industry and the safety of the Queensland
public.

Your Faithfully

Nigel Nelson