

To Whom It May Concern

A submission on the private member's Bill, the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015, presented by the Member for Mount Isa, Mr Rob Katter MP, on 16 September 2015.

I bought my first taxi licence about 23 years ago. This was purchased with the proceeds of my property. Within 5 years my wife purchased another licence with her savings from her work. We finally purchased another taxi licence with the money paid to us after our property that was resumed by the Queensland Government for road works.

My wife and I worked extremely hard to buy and pay off these taxi licences. The purpose was to provide us with an income and such that we could enjoy a happy retirement and be self funded.

Our entire life savings are now in jeopardy.

Since the arrival of the illegal taxis and the company facilitating their activity our Taxi licences, valued around \$560,000 by Queensland Government Tender Contract proposals, is now worth nothing. We have had these evaluated for sale and there is currently no one willing to purchase any licences in Queensland. Additionally, our income has depreciated so much that we are unable to receive much more than the amount to cover the costs of maintaining the taxi licences at present.

The illegal taxis and the multinational company facilitating their illegal activity have come in to Queensland without any licences, public liability insurance, legislated security requirements (e.g. cameras), disability measures (e.g. braille signage on every vehicle, taxi registration fees, compliance fees, compulsory company-membership fees, security fees, 6 monthly road worthy tests, and ATO-compliant taxi meters. This list is not comprehensive.

The illegal taxis are not regulated; therefore they are functioning against Queensland Law as set out in the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) 1994.

Our licences are currently leased to provide us with an income in our retirement – superannuation. We are now confronted with our leases being returned, as the drivers can no longer sustain the associated costs with the heavily reduced income. Instead, they are opting to run an illegal taxi with their own vehicles bypassing all of the regulations. The very same cannot find work in our taxis as the available work is now being diluted amongst increasing numbers of illegal taxis.

The Queensland Government has not released any further licences in Queensland since 2013. This is based on a ratio of population size and supply of work. Thus the illegal taxis and the multinational company facilitating their activities are NOT GENERATING ANY ADDITIONAL JOBS.

We now no longer know whether our regulated, Queensland Government sanctioned and legislated taxi licences will provide us with any income. This is our day-to-day concern. It is the first time in my 58 years of life that I will have to consider Government support and welfare. I am extremely uncertain about my future and that of my family; this is affecting my health, so much so that I can no longer work.

If the Government is earnest about maintaining its own laws, it should immediately and unequivocally support the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015. This is a deterrent for any individuals that are considering operating an ILLEGAL TAXI IN QUEENSLAND. This penalty cannot be passed on to another individual and it can not be paid by the multinational company facilitating their activity.

I urge you to consider the lives, livelihoods and future of the thousands of owners, leasees and drivers who are working in your Government legislated taxi industry.

We all deserve better.

Yours sincerely

*C. Marinucci* 22/10/2015.  
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