

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 in 1989. This was purchased with the proceeds of the sale of an investment property. In 2002 I purchased another licence in my SMSF.

I am now aged 60 and my SMSF is now in pension mode and I rely on the income of my Taxi licenses to pay for my living expenses. The company who leases my licences is finding it very difficult to find drivers to cover shifts and to pay owners like myself their monthly lease payments. We now face the prospect that our Brisbane Taxi Licences are worthless, no one is now willing to invest in the Taxi industry, the State Government is forgoing income revenue from previous sources of revenue such as stamp duty and capital gains taxes and the sale of taxi licences.

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 to cover their passengers, 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 and are taking away jobs from the taxi industry and it is also affecting bus and train patronage numbers..

We now no longer know whether our regulated, Queensland Government sanctioned and legislated taxi licenses will provide us with any income. This is our day-to-day concern.

If the Government is sincere 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 the multinational company facilitating their activity cannot pay it.

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



Frank Marinucci

22/10/2015