

20th October 2015

SUBMISSION ON TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (TAXI SERVICES)

AMENDMENT BILL 2015

My name is Gurpreet Singh and I am an Australian Resident having arrived to this Country nine years ago from India on a student visa. I came to Australia to seek a better life for my family and through hard work was able to support my parents and purchase agricultural land to provide. I made the decision to sell my farm and purchase two leased licenses, being B&W and Yellow Maxis. The cost to outfit the cars was \$72-\$74,000.00 each, and this decision was based on the regulation of the Taxi Industry and the role that Government played to ensure that it was a safe and consistent environment.

That is why I am writing in support of 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 the 16th September 2015.

Since the rise of the increasing illegal taxis, my income has reduced significantly and I can no longer ensure the employ of my four drivers. It is not only my own anguish but that of their families that I find increasingly difficult to deal with. My own personal circumstances have been affected dramatically as my personal income has plummeted approximately 40%. My wife and I purchased a home with the help of my parents, and made a decision to pay off a mortgage on the basis of the original income raised from my initial outlays and personal effort. The financial burden now weighs heavily on me and I am suffering anxiety and mental stress, as the realisation that the strength of illegal ride sharing becomes stronger and more powerful.

To ensure that I meet the requirements of law, I pay for everything required, like public liability and a much higher registration. I legally pay for my four driver, who legally pay their taxes, and we prove to be no burden on our Society but in fact a strong contributor.

The only fine that appears to be applied to the Illegal Taxi Service, is a personal one that can only be applied to the illegal driver and does nothing to deter to global monster that is threatening not just my industry but sets a precedent for other similar services.

Because of the uncertainty of the Government's stance on this continued practice, I am seriously considering returning to India, where for the first time I would be financially better off.

I make this submission to support the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gurpreet Singh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gurpreet Singh