

#542



R & V Nicolosi Taxi Services

92 Tilley Road, Wakerley, 4154.

Ph:073890 1775 Mob: 0408 749 106

ABN 36925600557

22/10/15

The Transport Legislation (taxi services) Amendment Bill 2015

I support the transport legislation (taxi service) amendment bill 2015

As a small family operated business I support the above bill. I started participating in the taxi industry in Queensland on the 23/11/1994. Over that 21 years I have employed hundreds of people and through diligent and honest work have invested in a number of taxi licences for my wife and myself for our retirement. As a law abiding citizen I have participated within the laws and regulations within the taxi industry as they have evolved.

This recent aggressive takeover from so called "ride sharing" apps that have no regard for those regulations have seriously damaged my business and my self-funded retirement plans.

By hiding under nonsense terminology of "disruptive innovation" this illegal business model has shown no regard to important safety and public transport regulations and on a worldwide model absorbs monetary fines to break the law.

A more apt terminology is "destructive economics" as Uber and its like have shown around the world with price dumping and disregard to local regulation to break into a market. The law abiding regulated market, under legal constraints have no way of competing under such circumstances.

From early 2015 to August 2015 I suffered a devastating downturn in earnings from a substantial operation of 7 taxis which has forced me into early retirement. This downturn in earnings also reflects in my drivers earning capacity, many of which are now well under minimum wages. For many years I have watched small management groups struggle to uphold the costs of legally operating a cab and the economy of scale has now changed that 7 taxis are not profitable.

I can't see how a single illegal cab will show any profit when the companies stop assisting them. The insurance costs and regulation cost and wear and tear on private cars show a real earnings figure. This is now happening in America as these business models have had time to mature. To imagine a co-existing of these two types of taxi models in Brisbane fighting for a limited pool of profit is simply fanciful, it just won't work and taxi industry as it is will perish.

I understand the need to have an inquiry to rationally weigh the many complications of this situation. However, to have the legal taxi industry suffer for such an extended time before any decision may destroy the entire industry. For the interim period I urge the committee to make the sensible decision to uphold the original laws regarding illegal taxis services and include the proposed changes in this new bill.

I am now faced with the prospect of living from my investments of which is diminishing if not destroying its complete worth.

Regards Ray & Vicki Nicolosi