

We are writing in support of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 to increase certain penalties in the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

My wife and I are now well into our 70's and have NEVER received any Government benefits.

In our late 40's we managed, through hard work and frugal saving, to purchase our first taxi licence in Queensland. In the years to follow all of our savings were directed towards a second taxi licence. We have faced a great deal of financial hardship and sacrifices to pay for these taxis and ensure they continue to provide the level of service required by the Queensland Government.

Our intention was always to drive the taxis until we reached our retirement when we would retain both the licences as our source of income – our superannuation.

These licences are now OUR SUPERANNUATION.

We are now confronted with licences that have lost their value and an income loss of 40% in the last year alone. This is directly related to a loss of jobs and drivers caused by illegal taxis operating in the same over-regulated Queensland Taxi Industry.

The emergence of illegal taxis operating in Queensland is something we cannot conceive. The Queensland Government who sets the legislation under which the public transport systems, and consequently Queensland taxis, run is now being ignored by illegal taxi operators with no legal repercussions.

The LAW IS THE LAW and breaking of any law is morally wrong. For an elected Government to then neglect the enforcement of that particular law is just unacceptable.

The changes proposed by Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 to recording of demerit points against the traffic history of a person who provides a taxi service without a taxi service licence or a peak demand taxi permit is a minimum requirement.

If the Queensland State Government continues to allow illegal taxis to operate through inaction they must consider compensation as a direct consequence of its actions.

Thus we give our full support and recommend passing of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill 2015 is to increase certain penalties in the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 to deter illegal taxi operators.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is a stylized 'E' and 'Z' for Elaine. The second signature on the right is a more complex, cursive signature for Edwin. Both signatures are written in a fluid, connected style.

Edwin and Elaine Zillman