

From: SM & DEC McCallum

*Committee Secretary
Public Works and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000.*

7th April 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission to the Transport and other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform Amendment Bill 2017).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission to the Parliamentary Committee investigating the Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Bill 2017 tabled in Queensland Parliament on 21 March 2017. I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself, we have been the owners of a Queensland Taxi Licence on the Gold Coast from 1992 and a second Licence in partnership with our daughter and her husband from 2003.

Summary:

The proposed Bill and Regulations, in our opinion as long term taxi licence owners, leave out a great deal of important detail concerning safety issues.

Also the issue of accountability on the part of the drivers and any new booking operators entering into the personalised transport arena is not specific enough and open to abuse by some.

These two issues concerning **safety and accountability** could be overseen by an Independent Personalised Transport Commission with legislative amendment, policing, enforcement, regulatory and policy development capacity. Without this type of structure in an administrative, supervising roll in the Personalised Transport Reform there would be a missing link.

The **safety issues** that are of concern to us and the community are as follows:

In the Notes on Provisions:

*Chapter 7 Personalised transport services Part 1 Preliminary, also in Part 3
Division 5 Duties relating to fatigue management*

Point A: It refers to *“introducing a chain of responsibility for taxi and booked hire services under which all persons in the chain are responsible for ensuring the safety of their activities including managing driver fatigue.”*

This Bill has not considered situations where the driver may be a ‘taxi driver’ for one shift and then become a ‘booked hire driver’ for the next. This is happening in our community now. The chain of command breaks down in these circumstances and the management of driver fatigue cannot be monitored.

This **safety issue** is a reality right now as drivers hop from one form of personalised transport to another. Unless WHS becomes the enforcer. I feel some other solution must be found for this dilemma.

Point B: In paragraph 4 it refers to *“a vehicle having a sign, marking, light or other thing on it that might reasonably indicate to members of the public it is a taxi or another vehicle available for hire on-the-spot.”* I presume this refers to taxis and other personalised transport cars that you refer to as booked hire services. My concern is that I cannot see any clear policy for signage on ride share vehicles in the Bill. I know of young girls who regularly hire these vehicles and there is no obvious signage to indicate that they are a bona fide “booked hire vehicle”. I do not believe a sign or bumper sticker is enough to guarantee that they are genuine, these signs are too easily removed and or replaced.

All personalised transport vehicles should have dedicated number plates, not removable stickers. Plates could be provided only when they have a Safety Certificate, the appropriate CTP and a Certificate of Inspection.

The matter of signage is a **safety issue and also one of accountability**.

There are other safety issues which are obvious ones **Security Camera** requirements to ensure the safety of drivers and passengers. These have proved themselves to be essential over the years and should be in all Personalised Transport Vehicles.

The other obvious one is the necessity for **GPS units** to be fixed to all Personalised Transport Vehicles. Mobile phone bookings may be the “in thing” with the new generation of young people but it is of greater importance to safe guard their lives by insisting that these units are mandatory in all modes of Personalised Transport Vehicles.

I trust you will consider our recommendations and appreciate our concerns that the Amendment Bill is beneficial to all Queenslanders.

Regards, Stanley and Dorothy McCallum