

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 1 April 2017 1:26 PM
To: Public Works and Utilities Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform Amendment Bill 2017)

To the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Queensland Parliament,

Hi! My name is Yahna Parker, I live [REDACTED] Harristown QLD 4350 (for those of you who don't know Harristown is a suburb of Toowoomba). I'm currently driving for Uber, just 3 days a week because that's all I can afford to do at the moment as I'm currently unemployed, so between Newstart and what I earn from Uber I'm just keeping my head above water especially now that Uber x (which is what I drive) is now paying GST. I'm fine with paying for a DA (Driver Authority), I can see the sense in that, I'm also fine with doing a COI every 6 months if that is what you deem to be responsible for us to do, however, I am NOT fine with paying another \$240 extra for a new vehicle licence, pay compulsory CPT in a different insurance class on top of the cost of my annual licence (\$140), paying GST, regular vehicle maintenance, fuel, car washing, registration and full comprehensive insurance! When I say Uber and Newstart are just keeping my head above water I'm not exaggerating. As of this moment I've had to apply for debt relief and go to Lifeline to ask for help to pay some of my regular bills as I'm a month behind, and no I didn't expect to lose my job, no one does. At this point if this amendment goes through I will lose everything, my car, phone and house everything including my self respect.

I understand that Taxis are losing income to Uber, but to be quite honest that, loss of income for taxi drivers had been happening before Uber even hit the shores of Australia. I worked for some people who had their own fleet of cabs here in Toowoomba for 2.5 years and in that time I noticed the income of the drivers declining. It was declining because it was/is expensive and no longer cost effective for the general public, government and large companies to use. When the mining boom started most of those companies were using taxis to get their FIFO workers to and from the airport, once it became too expensive and no longer sustainable in their budget, they bought their own vans or mini buses to transport their workers to and from the airport. Same thing has happened within state and federal governments budgets in regards to patients requiring regular health services i.e. dialysis, their funding has been cut for taxi services as it is no longer a cost effective way to get these patients to and from their health service provider as they are expensive.

To be quite honest, I think the whole Taxi industry is carrying on like a bunch of 2 year olds chucking a temper tantrum! I understand they have lost income. I really feel for them with the fact that the licences that they have bought are now pretty much worthless, but you do understand that most taxi drivers don't own the vehicle that they drive. They sign a Bailment agreement with the owner/manager of the vehicle and drive it for them. Most drivers don't have to pay for regular servicing of the vehicles they drive or registration, they do pay a nominated amount to help cover any insurances per shift (which really isn't much, about \$6-7 I think), yes they do pay GST and no they don't actually pay for fuel (most drivers when they put fuel in the car minus that cost off the gross amount earned which effectively means they haven't paid for fuel, they must also attach the docket to their payins so it can be verified by the owner/manager). If they want to be more competitive with Uber and other ridesharing businesses then they need to approach the federal government and DTMR about lowering their prices, getting their App more user friendly to become more competitive. I don't remember Coles and Woolworths asking either the federal or state governments to impose restrictions on service or asking for more registrations to be paid by Aldi or Costco when they came to Australia. They may have chuckled a tanty, I don't know, but what they did do was realize that they had some stiff competition and if they wanted to stay competitive and keep a whole chunk of the Australian public coming in to their stores they had to be more cost effective and competitive. What they didn't do was try to tell the Australian public that they can't shop there because it would mean that they received less money and your putting us out of a job, they lifted their game instead. I thought we lived in a democracy where everyone gets the right to choose for themselves what they want to do, where they want to shop, who they want to get a ride with and how much they want to pay. Right now, from my point of view and in my personal opinion, I feel that the taxi industry is trying to tell the Australian public what they can and can't do which is not very democratic. All of the riders that I pick up tell me these same things each and every time I ask them why they catch Uber instead of a Taxi - we're cheaper (about half the cost of a taxi), our cars are clean inside and out, our cars smell nice and the drivers are friendly and listen to the rider when the rider says "I will direct you to where I want to go. I know the quick way.", we also allow them to request and change the radio station, adjust the AC and volume of the radio.

Uber and other rideshare companies are where the future is going. Impose more stringent police/personel checks if you wish, impose a compulsory COI every six months if you wish, but please don't restrict our access to certain areas or impose more cost onto what we already pay out of our own pocket as it will put some of us in a very bad position. If this amendment does get passed, I don't think that the Taxi industry will have a win, I think the backlash from rideshare riders will be significant.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yahna Parker.