

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 April 2017 10:31 AM
To: Public Works and Utilities Committee
Subject: Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Bill 2017"

Dear MPs

I am going to share my story with you to try and make you comprehend why your attempt to restrict the viability of UBER drivers is both ridiculous and bordering on scandalous.

First let me ask you three questions.

Q: Who are you elected to represent?

A: The community in your electorates.

Q: Who benefits from UBER?

A: The community in your electorate!

Q: Why then would you penalize the community in your electorate by making it impossible for UBER drivers to exist?

A: _____ (Please fill in the blank, nothing's coming to me)

I have recently commenced as an UBER driver in Cairns and have spent the last two and a bit weeks talking to my riders. Without exception every one of them has said "UBER is fantastic, I am so glad it has come to Cairns." Approximately 90% of them have stated that if UBER wasn't available they would not have gone out that night, cabs are just too expensive and unless one of us is the designated driver and doesn't drink alcohol we couldn't afford it. One particular passenger received a last minute invitation to go over to a friend's place for a drink. It was a \$40 cab ride each way, a bottle of wine \$20 making a 2 hour drink and chat with a friend, \$100 which was unaffordable for her. With UBER it cost her \$18 each way and \$20 for a bottle of wine. \$56 which she could afford. That is UBER in a single case study.

Without UBER people in the outermost suburbs would not go out to restaurants, bars and clubs. Attendances at live performances have increased as well. All of these make Cairns a more vibrant and dynamic city, which generates employment and tax revenue for the State Government. This in turn, will attract investment into commercial real estate as patronage rises and the city becomes more vibrant, economic activity increases and Returns on Investment to those risking their money becomes acceptable. Well patronized retail, food and entertainment outlets mean increased rentals meaning higher property values – surely you can see the benefits that flow from UBER!

There are no losers from the introduction of UBER. Venue owners, retailers, landlords all benefit from more patronage, which comes from the introduction of UBER.

Now me, of course, I nearly forgot. I am a 57 year old, ex-CEO who had been put on the scrapheap because I was too old. For nineteen months I searched for jobs that I was perfectly qualified for but didn't even get an interview. I went on New Start 15 months ago because I had run through most of my savings. I won't say I was depressed as I live in Cairns after all. My wife went back out to work to keep the rent paid while I did volunteer work for Aboriginal groups around the way, and sat and watched TV and pondered the World's injustices. **Now I am an UBER driver and proud to say it.** I am earning an acceptable income, will be paying taxes instead of receiving other peoples' and am contributing to society again.

If you pass this legislation to increase the cost of my being an UBER driver I will have to stop. \$380 a year may not sound much to you, (that is only a day and a half's per diem for an MP travelling to Brisbane for parliamentary sitting weeks after all), but let me tell you, to an UBER driver it is a significant outlay each year. Many drivers will drop out and go back on New Start, but that won't worry you as that's Federal money so it doesn't really affect the State Budget.

Please before you make any decisions, read the three questions at the start of this missive again and try UBER. Then you will understand my passion.

Yours sincerely

Grant Fawcett



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