

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 April 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** Public Works and Utilities Committee  
**Cc:** Letter Cairns Post; readerhelp@qnp.newsltd.com.au  
**Subject:** Proposal to changes in Uber Licensing and Operation  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

Mr Werner Sandner  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Refer: Proposed changes to Uber Licensing and Operation

Dear Sir, Madam

I am concerned about the proposals in regards to changes to Uber Licenses and Operation. They are as follows:

- Introduce a new vehicle licence for all ridesharing vehicles (including the vehicle you use on Uber) costing you close to \$240 annually.
- Require you to get your car registered in a new Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance class, which will be more expensive.
- This is on top of the \$140 that you already pay annually for your Driver Authorisation.
- Restrict ridesharing vehicles from driving in particular areas of the state.

I have been looking for work for many years. I have over the last 18 years applied for over 8000 jobs to no avail. I have been forced to do phoney and useless Job search Activities through Centrelink's requirements for the last 2 and a half years with no success because the jobs are simply not there. Because I have a partner who has a small income (about 600 Dollars a week) I lose most of any Centrelink payments. My partner is unable to support me effectively as she has accumulated some debts of her own.

Due to the financial stress I have suffered, not even being able to pay basic bills I have started to use my credit card to pay for food, which I don't know how to pay off. As a consequence of this stress I have been suffering from gastric problems for the last 6 months and had to go to hospital a week ago. When Uber came to Cairns, and I was able to start driving, the financial pressure suddenly stopped and my health problems that I have been having suddenly completely disappeared. Uber became an emergency rescue. I am using our 4 years old car, which my wife

won at the Cairns Casinos in 2013 (otherwise I would not have a suitable car to drive for Uber. I was only able to buy old second hand cars in the past).

I have been driving taxi between 2004 to 2014 (part and full time) but that came to an end when on the 14 December 2014 at 3:00 AM in the morning, when I got out of my car to walk to the taxi vehicle, suddenly a male in a balaclava appeared with a big baton (like a baseball bat) and repeatedly hit me on the head. It was a botched robbery, the assailant confused me with the night driver who had cash and just finished the shift. I was taken to the Cairns Base hospitals by ambulance for injuries all over my body and suffered pain for the next 6 months.

When Uber came in, as this is cash less system, I felt secure enough to re-start driving. No cash, no payments, no Robberies and no hold ups. Safe!

When I started to drive for Uber I was overwhelmed. In 10 years of taxi driving I have seen nothing like the demand for Uber fares. People, who normally cannot go anywhere as there are no buses, suddenly had a new transport system they could afford. It becomes obvious that taxi services are not appropriate to them as they are for many people simply unaffordable. I have had more long distance fares (say 10 – 30 km) in one week of Uber driving than what I would experience in taxis in three months. People are suddenly able to go to that 24 hours medical Centre by Uber (not by Taxis). A typical return taxi fare from a typical suburb in Cairns to and from the Medical Centre is about 70 – 80 Dollars. By Uber it is half or even lower. The public seemed desperate for a transport system, other than buses that are affordable and now they got it. I cannot stress the relieve I see in the eyes of my Uber Passengers, as now there actually is a transport system available to them that they can use. I cannot over emphasise the appreciation and excitement I see from the public, for this newly added and affordable public transport system.

The public will not forget when the Queensland government causes Uber to become more expensive and even unavailable in certain parts, just to accommodate and support the through the taxi licensed over chronically protected and entrenched taxi industry. Their Monopoly has made them lazy, uncaring, uncompetitive and unaffordable to the public. This has caused a market demand for a new type of transport service, and Uber seems to meet that demand.

The taxi industry will have to learn to be competitive and innovative to survive. Of course as it is entrenched in a chronic monopoly and is used to no competition, this will be difficult. And their taxi licenses, I am sorry to say may become worthless. Time changes things, we all have to live with this. I used to work as an electronics technician, had my own TV repair business and suffered the same fate. There was no government intervention to stop the cheap imports of Electronic goods and even though I went back to school for retraining, I still applied for over 8000 jobs with no avail. Life is like that. The taxi industry also will need to live with this.

To make Uber more expensive and to even ban Uber from operation in certain areas all together, to accommodate an inefficient, overpriced and unaffordable taxi service industry is not a solution, and at the end of the day the VOTING public will suffer the consequences. They will know why they once again ended up with no transport service. A transport service that is not affordable, in the consumer eyes does not exist.

It is the public that votes for the government, not the few individuals that have managed through an antiquated system to bribe governments (with taxi licenses) , to cut completion and make this service due to high price unaffordable to most who require this type of transport service.

Please do not drag Uber down to the same level as Taxi Services. If you do the voting public will know where the responsibility lies.

I left an image of the news paper article of my botched robbery as a taxi driver. I can send you the police report if you like.

Werner Sandner

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Monday, 3 April 2017 5:47 PM  
Public Works and Utilities Committee  
Additional comments I have made

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Refer: Proposed changes to Uber Licensing and Operation, additional comments I have already given you.

Dear Sir, Madam

I am an Uber driver and very concerned about the proposals in regards to changes to Uber Licenses and Operation. They are as follows:

- Introduce a new vehicle licence for all ridesharing vehicles (including the vehicle you use on Uber) costing you close to \$240 annually.
- Require you to get your car registered in a new Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance class, which will be more expensive.
- This is on top of the \$140 that you already pay annually for your Driver Authorisation.
- Restrict ridesharing vehicles from driving in particular areas of the state.

Please note:

- Uber Cars are private cars. They are not like taxis on the road for 24 hours. They could not be as the low fare prices makes owner/ driver car share not financial viable.
- Uber cars are private cars that are often used for income support. Most drivers would be in some job and use Uber for income support.
- Taxis are not private cars. They are used for passenger transport only. Uber cars are private and used for some hours a week for rider share only.
- Restrict ridesharing in certain areas is unfair to the customer and may contravene federal and international law.

- My car is on the road about 15 hours a week. A taxi vehicle would be up to 168 hours a week on the road.
- Uber is not the kind of money maker that taxis are. It is commercially not as viable.

Please consider this in ride sharing.

Werner Sandner

# Cabbie 'left for dead'

## Transport and Other Legislation Submission (Reform) Amendment

### Taxi driver bashed with baton

CAITLIN DRYSDALE

A TAXI driver who was beaten with a baton before being left "to die" in a pool of his own blood is pleading with the public to help find the man who attacked him.

The 61-year-old driver, who chose not to be named for fear of retribution, was starting his shift at 3am last Sunday when he was accosted walking to his car on Jaye St, Edge Hill.

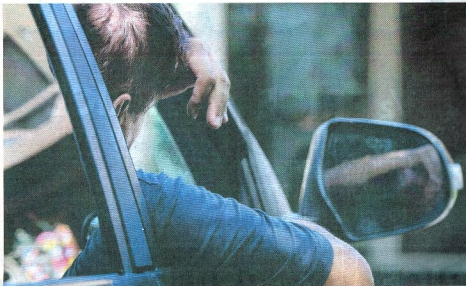
"Before reaching the taxi cab, I was attacked by a man with a baton hitting me in the head numerous times," he said.

"When I fell and he could not reach my head he beat me repeatedly on other parts of my body ... and continued to hit me even though I was lying there in a pool of blood."

The driver was rescued when his screams for help were heard by another taxi driver, who came to the man's aid.

The attacker fled west along Jaye St and remains at large.

"I don't know what the pur-



**HORRIFIC BEATING:** The cabbie who was viciously assaulted in Edge Hill early last Sunday morning.

Picture: ANNA ROGERS

pose of his actions were, if he was attempting a robbery or if he just hated a taxi driver or if it was somebody who knew me personally," the driver said.

"But I'm very concerned because this person is extremely violent, and he's a danger to the community."

Police have confirmed the investigation into the assault is ongoing, with the driver adamant this is not a "normal" taxi-driver assault.

"I've been assaulted in the past while driving a taxi, but this wasn't related to the actual drive," he said.

"This was random."

The driver has cancelled his upcoming driving shifts, stating he is "not ready" to start driving taxis again.

He is still recovering from his physical injuries including lacerations and bruising.

The alleged attacker is de-

scribed as being of caucasian appearance, in his 20s and about 179cm tall with a proportionate build.

"Investigations continue and we appeal for assistance," a police spokeswoman said.

**Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.**