

Coorparoo Motors Wholesale Pty Ltd  
Norm and Margaret Powell

Personalised Transport Reform (Amendment Bill 2017)

In the year 2000, Norm and I sold an investment property and purchased a Taxi Licence. We thought being regulated by the Queensland Government this investment would be better than real estate, safer than shares with the fluctuating markets and also bank interest being at record lows. We planned to be independent in our retirement years providing our own income and not relying on a Government pension.

Most of the taxi Licence owners that I have talked to have been law abiding Citizens, we don't like confrontation whenever the Queensland Government imposed new regulations were just went along with whatever was asked of us. In 2017 we were going to change our in car cameras, we were prepared to do this as we knew that it was safety issue.

Little did we know about a Multi National company that would arrive in Queensland intimidating the government and bulldozing their way into our business, thumbing their nose at regulations that were in place and running rough shot over our laws. Originally there were fines given but this company thought they were above the law and just refused to acknowledge these.

Then to our amazement the Queensland Government decided to throw us small business owners aside for this law breaking multi national company and allow them to operate in Queensland from September 16 without even having any laws in place, unbelievable. This has now caused chaos in the Personal Transport Industry. Fortitude Valley is now a car park on Saturday nights as there are so many vehicles on the road and every driver now working for sub standard wages. We now have situations where we have unregistered and uninsured vehicles ferrying around unsuspecting customers, drunk drivers, sub standard driver training, assaults and price surging during peak periods.

Uber is a worldwide problem, Denmark has now put laws in place to make this company accountable. It is just beyond my thinking that a Government would allow law abiding small business owners to be intimidated by this company that does not pay any tax.

The Queensland taxi industry is recognised as having one of the best world class models and some countries have been looking at our model to establish their own laws to combat this unsafe and dangerous ride share situation.

Accordingly, we submit to the committee that the status quo be re-established to restore public safety and then modify some of the regulations to give consumers more choice (handicapped consumers still rely on taxis only) and reduce the red-tape that we have had to adhere to for the last 16 years until September 2016. All of the other aims of the committee are already covered in the previous taxi regulations

Regards,

Norm Powell Director Margaret Powell Secretary