

## Public Works and Utilities Committee

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 April 2017 8:39 PM  
**To:** Public Works and Utilities Committee  
**Subject:** Submission regarding the: "Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Bill 2017"

Hello,

I am writing to address the current submission being considered that will effect me as an Uber driver.

My name is Joshua Jones, I am 25 years old, working Part-time at Apple and working as many hours possible while seeking Full-time employment. But with few Full-time positions available, its basically a case of 'wait your turn' before I can get a chance at securing a Full-time position. Thats just the way it is and I'm ok with it. However, my dream, as every Australian's dream should be is to own my own home.

As we all know, it is getting increasingly harder to get into the market and with not as many job opportunities out there, its basically a take what you can get situation. This is where Uber comes into it. I currently have a car that has been approved via a safety certificate to operate as an Uber car and I thought, why not give Uber a go and try to come up with some extra cash to put into my savings for a deposit until I secure a Full-time position.

Now, after hearing about this possible bill being passed I am feeling disheartened. The government shouldn't be finding ways to make it harder for honest working Australians, and in my opinion, in this specific case, honest younger working Australians trying to earn a living and live the life that we as Australians have been promised, and for me specifically, achieve the dream of owning my own home (The Australian Dream).

Even at this point I must pay G.S.T on top of my general tax because of Uber being classed as a Taxi. But I'm ok with that, because I understand that it must be fair and if taxi drivers pay G.S.T, then as the government has already decided, so should Uber drivers.

But to introduce new fees.., that doesn't make it any fairer to the industry or safer. All it does is place another burden on people wanting to drive for Uber to earn extra cash to help with living expenses. To make decent money off Uber is becoming increasingly harder and if the government continues to put additional fees that serve no purpose from my point of view, only to take more money from me as a young Australian trying to achieve the Australian dream, makes me want to work for Uber less and less. It doesn't feel very Australian of the government to do this at all.

Basically I'm at the point we're I can still make it work, that is, driving for Uber after taking out fuel, tax, G.S.T, wear and tear on the car and the current \$140.00 annual Driver Authorisation fee but if we're looking at new fees in the form of a new so called 'license', having to get my car insured with new 'ctp' insurance (apparently the current insurance isn't good enough) then the benefit is pretty much almost gone!

Right now I mainly work Friday and Saturday nights. I would say I average about \$30 an hr after Ubers fee. After taking out the costs listed above, I'm left with roughly \$18-\$20 an hr. I'm ok with that, but what you have to understand is that to get this amount I'm working between the hours of 9pm - 4am Friday and Saturday nights. And then I go to work the next morning at Apple starting at 9am on average. Most people wouldn't even be bothering working those hours and only earning that amount per hour. But I do it because I have dream and want to own my own home. And then I hear the government wants to take more from me with no conceivable benefit for me or anyone else for that matter...

And its not just me that will be affected. The riders that use Uber, which from my experience includes a lot of younger people (aged 12-16), who use it as an alternative to just walking around between the hours of 10pm - 3am weekends, which is a much safer mode of getting around and why do they use it? Because its cheap! But if fees are continually being placed on Uber drives the rates riders pay are only going to go up either in the form of surge pricing because there won't be as many Uber drivers working as a result of bills like this one or Uber is forced to increase their rates to help drivers cover costs and as a result, push out younger people from riding with Uber because they can't afford it, only to put them right back on the street.

And on that note, people in general are loving Uber for the fact that its an innovative way of getting a lift and very cost effective. You put more fees on the drivers, then that goes away because eventually it will hit the riders.

I guess from my point of view, we've got a system thats working right now. Its safe, its legal, both drivers and riders are loving it and with the federal court ruling that Uber drivers must pay G.S.T, it is also fair and in-line with the taxi industry. **Why then change it??** It's only going to increase burdens on Uber drivers which in turn, gets passed onto the riders. This bill doesn't help anybody, only the governments pocket.

**This bill should not be passed!**

My details:

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