

Public Works and Utilities Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 April 2017 5:22 PM
To: Public Works and Utilities Committee
Subject: "Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Bill 2017"

Hi there,

I've been driving for a little while with Uber (on and off) and I feel that I need to tell you a little story or two about the proposed changes.

Just the other day I collected a girl directly from the door of the Mater Hospital and drive her to her door to her home that was well outside of Beaudesert.

She was in pain. She had just had a medical procedure and is a full time student on Centrelink payments. She couldn't have walked long distances, a bus was impractical and a taxi cost was prohibitive. Uber saved this girl time, money and pain in getting home. I also drop a lot of single mothers with their children to hospital who are on very limited incomes. These people are unable to afford a taxi but taking a child about to have surgery into hospital in Brisbane summer heat when they are fasting is not a reasonable option.

To restrict regions should have prohibited my getting that first girl home with ease.

To add fees means added costs which is a strain on my lower socioeconomic clients.

I agree with the taxi drivers - I think that they have a bum deal with their costs compared to uber drivers but penalising uber drivers for being proactive is maybe not a well considered option.

Uber income is already taxed on top of their other income plus the added costs so you are penalising people who are actually working HARDER. A taxi driver has a full time business and the associated costs with that business that can be absorbed through tax write offs.

But to have a full or part time job and to then voluntarily get out there and work longer hours is something to be recognised and rewarded - not penalised.

My best friend has 6 children. Only one of the Fathers pays child support for one of the children. She has worked full time all of her life but a company she worked for went bankrupt and she didn't receive her wages for 6 months work and she's developed cancer.

Because she has money owed to her she has been advised by Centrelink that if she gets and entitlements she will be up on charges when her back pay finally comes in (7 years and counting now) and she can't risk that and risk losing her children.

It's a terrible situation that she's in. I'm astonished that Centrelink is set up in a way that doesn't take the fact that she's earned virtually no income for over 7 years into account against her possible payments coming through. Astounding.

So I've been paying her bills. Uber has enabled me to work and pay my own bills and also pay those of my best friend and her children while she's in hospital and getting more cancer treatments.

I'm not doing this to pay for a hobby. Or a new handbag. Or even to better my future. We have an agreement that my best friend will pay me back but in all honesty - I never expect her to be able to do so.

I'm using Uber to pay to keep her alive and to pay her kids school fees.

People get in terrible life situations but Uber can be a saviour for them but if you penalise it too heavily - the costs become too much to even start or to continue. And don't you want less people reliant upon the public purse?

Uber is a gift of independence to people who otherwise may be out of options and lowered costs means that collusions and cartels are less likely to form.

I hope you will take this into consideration when approaching your final decision.

Thank you for your time,

Michele