

As I approach 50 years of continuous involvement as a Taxi Licence Holder (Brisbane and Gold Coast) in the Taxi Industry I am distressed that the recent decision by the Government to legislate an uneven playing field to disadvantage Small Business Operators (whether they be drivers, owners, office, call room staff, mechanics and technical trade workers) who have worked closely with previous administrations to provide a safe, insured and reliable environment for the travelling public.

This action is a direct decision which affects Small Business and has a very damaging effect on my Asset Value and my Income. I have relied on the increased value of Licenses over those 50 years and treated my license as my superannuation but along with my family this is a devastating blow. (I paid \$350,000 for my current License in 1996 and drove it in all conditions until 2010.)

There are several people who paid the Government in the vicinity of \$550,000 for a Gold Coast License about 6 years ago and now owe hundreds of thousands of dollars to the banks on a virtually worthless piece of paper.

The Queensland Taxi Industry has survived by consultation with and by abiding with both Government Legislation and Taxi Company Policy, paid Income Tax to the ATO and sets a multicultural standard that has existed and survived for a very long time.

When I entered the Industry the Europeans (mainly Greeks and Italians) were prominent and I am still friends with many of these people today. Then came the Vietnamese and I am proud to say I helped a driver become an owner. Today we have the subcontinent involvement and the recent effort and recognition of a taxi driver to save several lives on a burning bus in Moorooka is not of Anglo-Saxon heritage.

The Queensland Taxi Council is not Union orientated, does not have any Political Party affiliation and does not advise its members and affiliates to support any particular line of thinking. Whatever Religion and Political leanings they have are their own concern.

My reasoning and explanation of an unfair advantage to "Ride Share" is:

- (1) The expensive installation of Cameras provides safety and assurance to both the driver and the passenger in the event of a disagreement. **{Not in Ride Share}**
- (2) The high cost of Insurance and CTP in Taxis. **{Not in Ride Share}**
- (3) The payment of GST, Income Tax to the ATO on the full fare. **{Not in Ride Share}**
- (4) Every year I provide information to the Transport Department if I have had any traffic infringements or broken any laws which would make me ineligible to renew my license. I then feel assured that every other driver or owner is in the same situation. **{Not in Ride Share}**
- (5) Taxis have an approved livery and identifying Registration Plates. **{Not in Ride Share}**
- (6) By obeying Company Policy taxis pick up fares from ranks in busy times to reduce the decision of the Transport Dept. putting more Licenses on. With the Commonwealth Games less than a year away will the government offer to sell more Licenses to help move the expected number of visitors?
- (7) A website "Whose driving you" highlights the worldwide problems of Ride Share Company Uber.
- (8) Today's Courier Mail features several Company's not complying with ATO laws. Is Uber in this category?

These are some of my personal thoughts and I am willing to appear and answer and questions at any time or place.

Yours Sincerely,

John B Williams 