

Research Director
Transportation and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

7 April 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: SUBMISSION TO THE TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (PERSONALISED
TRANSPORT REFORM) AMENDMENT BILL 2017**

We write to tell you about how the introduction of Uber, and lack of support from the Queensland Government has affected our lives and urge you to accept all requirements listed by TCQ (attached).

We purchased our first taxi license in 1973 and the 2nd in 1985. Over the last 44 years, we have worked tirelessly and sacrificed so much to pay loans for these licenses, at times with interest rates up to 20%. We have always followed all regulations set out for the Taxi industry and we felt assured by the fact that our industry is heavily regulated. Or, **WAS** heavily regulated.

Enter Uber. My government has failed us and our families. My government allowed a multinational corporation to come into Australia and make a mockery of the regulations we in the taxi industry have spent our lives working under. My government turned its back on our industry and allowed Uber to destroy the taxi industry and the lives of all those who rely on it. My government turned a blind eye to the illegal dealings of Uber while the taxi industry crumbled. The lack of any kind of backbone has been absolutely disgraceful.

And we are outraged!

We believe in competition. In the past, competition has come and gone. The difference was that the previous competition existed under the same regulations that we the Taxi Industry follow. They failed. But the competition was fair. The current situation is completely unfair. Uber have their own set of rules that are impossible to compete with. All we ask for is a level playing field. Right now it is like being in a boxing ring. One opponent has their hands tied behind their back. Guess which opponent doesn't.

We are both 74 years old. We have worked hard and sacrificed a lot to pay off our debts so we could live off the income generated by leasing our taxi licenses. Since the arrival of Uber that income has gone from \$5,300 a month to \$1,600 a month. The value of taxi licenses have plummeted from \$500,000 dollars to next to nothing. The constant worry has affected our mental health which in turn has affected our physical health. Our future plans are in tatters. My government has failed us. We have followed all the regulations and this is the way we are treated...WHY?

Please, we urge you to accept all requirements put forward by TCQ attached. We 100% support every recommendation they have made.

James and Shirley Small
Ex-Labor voters

List of Requirements

1. Establish an independent Personalised Transport Commission with legislative amendment, policing/enforcement, regulatory and policy development capacity.
2. Bailment Agreements must be retained, with the minimum work conditions and standards for all personalised transport drivers enshrined in legislation.
3. Security Camera requirements must establish a minimum standard, be consistent and uniform across all personalised transport providers to ensure the safety of all drivers and passengers (regardless of the service chosen) and to meet Queensland Police requirements.
4. Commercial-grade, anti-tamper GPS units must be fixed to all personalised transport vehicles and be remotely accessible to authorised parties.
5. All personalised transport vehicles to have emergency systems in place to support driver safety.
6. The Bill and Regulation must be fully consistent with all other relevant legislation including, but not limited to, disability discrimination and work, health and safety.
7. All personalised transport vehicles be required to have dedicated number plates (akin to "T" plates), rather than easily removable stickers. Plates to be provided only when evidence of appropriate CTP, public liability and certificate of inspection are provided.
8. Immediately define, and establish appropriate and equitable premiums for, the class/classes of Compulsory Third Party insurance for all personalised transport providers to address continued uncertainty.
9. All personalised transport providers must hold public liability insurance to prevent the State Government becoming the default insurer and to minimise potential risks to the community.
10. In the absence of vehicle age restrictions, establish clear vehicle quality and usage rate standards and hold operators accountable.
11. Increase licence fees for Booked Hire Service Drivers and Authorised Entities to help fund expected increases in regulatory and enforcement costs for Government and to better reflect the level of "trust" being placed on licence holders.
12. All drivers must have an ABN and be registered for GST before receiving a Drivers Authorisation.
13. The Government must establish a process for managing the risks of multiple affiliations by drivers in terms of both "chain of responsibility" and fatigue management. This includes drivers operating across both personalised transport and other transport (i.e. truck, bus) sectors.
14. Fully integrate taxis into the GoCard public transport network in the short-term.
15. Clearly define what constitutes a "hail" and "touting".
16. Expressly prohibit the establishment and operation of Booked Hire Service pick up/and drop off zones, on public and private land, which represent pseudo taxi ranks.
17. Establish and maintain a register of drivers that have been disaffiliated or removed from platforms to prevent drivers from simply shifting to a new platform.
18. Establish clear and enforceable requirements for Government access to all data related to the delivery of personalised transport services in Queensland.
19. Expressly identify Police Check requirements in the Bill for all personalised transport drivers as part of Driver Authorization approval.
20. Maintain the capacity of the Minister to enter into Service Contracts at their discretion to ensure the Government has the capacity to respond quickly, and at the lowest cost, to changing or unique circumstances without the need for regulatory or legislative changes.