

Committee Secretary

Public Works and Utilities Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Qld - 4000

Dear Research Director

I have already sent two letters dated 10th March & 17th March 2017 to our Honourable Qld Premier and to Transport Minister Mr. Mark Bailey. Now with humble submission, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the following facts:

- 1) All the taxi licences were sold by the Qld Government in the past at tender prices which had ranged from \$125,000 plus stamp duty for Maxi Taxi licence and \$325,000 plus for people Mover and standard licences. I myself have bought people mover licence for \$385,000 plus stamp duty.
- 2) Standard Taxi licences value were over \$540,000 and now have been devalued to that level that there is no one in the market to invest their money to buy these taxi licences. Even the banks have started asking another asset to offer as security. For instance:- I borrowed huge loan to buy another business putting my taxi licence as security and now last month I have received many follow up calls from NAB saying that the bank is not interested in taxi licence as security because of its devaluation and I have to offer another method of security which unfortunately I don't have any other security to offer.

This is too stressful upon my family.

- 3) On dated 24th Jan 2017, Pauline Hanson has made a speech in Taxi Council Special General Meeting held at Convention Centre and she clearly supported taxi industry saying that it becomes '**Duty of Care**' for the government to offer fair compensation to the owners for an act which has caused damage to the value of the taxi licence. Offer of \$20,000 to every owner for loss of Income for the next five years and \$9000 as hardship payment shared among the owner and operator is just like offering carrots. **There must a fair compensation for the value**

of the licence itself.(Full Video recording for her speech captured on my mobile camera is available for your reference if interested)

- 4) Even in WA, Transport Minister Rita Saffioti has promised to announce a legislation which would determine how much taxi plate owners could receive in a buy back scheme. **Ms Saffioti said “ Legalisation of UBER..... This has been the worst- handled reform in the State’s history. It’s a mess and we are committed to fixing the mess. This is about giving taxi plate owners a fair go’.**
- 5) To the best of my law knowledge, any state government can acquire any asset if that asset is required for the growth of the State’s economy but in return, government must offer market value as compensation to the owner whose assets or its value has been decreased or damaged due to such action of the government.
- 6) I have genuine belief that our taxi licence value has been devalued just because of UBER has been legalised and this all has happened because of current government’s decision to announce so.
- 7) Many of Queenslanders who have withdrawn their superannuation funds and have also mortgaged their houses against taxi licences are getting out of pockets to afford to pay the mortgage as our taxi industry have lost many of our taxi drivers to UBER now.
- 8) I also do not have any regular driver to drive my own B&W taxi 2626 resulting that me being an overseas law graduate who has invested his hard earned money to buy this taxi licence as an investment business, is now bound to drive his own taxi daily Monday to Friday for nine-ten hours to make just \$250 a shift so that fixed weekly overhead expense can be paid off. So by driving taxi five days in a week I am making \$1250 gross and out of that, my taxi weekly expenses are as under
 - a) \$203 per week as radio fee to B&W Taxis as my affiliation fee,
 - b) \$60 per week(\$3000 per year with \$1000 excess) taxi full cover insurance to Taxi care insurance company,
 - c) \$125 PW (\$ 6519 Per year) approximately for Taxi CTP insurance/registration,
 - d) Fuel cost is \$250 for five shifts

- e) Taxi wear and tear maintenance is \$200 per week (Calculated \$10,000 per year)

Just a total of taxi overhead expenses = \$ 838 per week

Therefore, Total gross Earning per week = \$1250 - \$ 838 = \$412 per week is my taking and imagine if someone have to pay taxi licence and home mortgage and so many hidden expenses then how it is going to be manageable?

- 9) In Brisbane, UBER was operating its offices in the market even when it was not legal. Also, saw again on the news that even in South Australia where UBER is still illegal but their illegal business is operational as they have already opened up their offices in the market for driver's registration.

REQUIRED CHANGES:

- 1) There must a fair compensation for the value of the taxi license.**
Pauline Hanson in Qld have supported the taxi industry saying that it becomes the 'Duty of Care' for the government to offer fair compensation to the owners for an act which has caused damage to the value of the taxi licence. Transport Minister Rita Saffioti in WA has promised a new legislation saying that this has been the worst-handled reform in the State's history. It's a mess and we are committed to fixing the mess. This is about giving taxi plate owners a fair go'.
- 2) All UBER cars must have commercial grade security camera installed as this will ensure the safety of the travelling passengers as well safety of UBER driver as well. A rape case in NSW and an incident of UBER driving being smashed in his head in Fortitude Valley could have been avoided. A video posted to LiveLeak on 3rd April 2017, in US a woman passenger has falsely accused an UBER driver for raping her because the UBER driver disgruntled that female passenger to get out of his car.**

Click on.....

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 3) Driver criminal history check must be compulsory for all drivers for safety of passengers. According to recent report issued by Heather Kelly on 5th April 2017, in Massachusetts, more than 8000 UBER drivers have been banned from driving in the State under new sticker background check regulations. Please take note that more than 1500 drivers were rejected for violent crimes charges. Other reason for denial included various driving offences, felony convictions, sex, abuse and exploitation. The State also indentified 51 sex offenders. Please click the following link: [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 4) Area knowledge test compulsory,
- 5) CTP/ Registration must be same as taxis are paying i.e \$6200 per year.(\$237 fee for UBER car is a joke. UBER cars are operational 24/7 and transporting passengers from door to door and hence they should be liable to pay the same amount of CTP what taxis are paying every year. If the passing of legislation on 5th Sep 2016 was easy to legalise UBER then it is easy again to pass such another legislation for CTP as expensive as taxis are for UBER as well.)
- 6) Currently due to shortage of taxi drivers, there are many taxis sitting at taxi yards or at owner's homes without drivers and owners are also unable to drive by themselves because of their other business commitments either they are multi licence owners OR due to their health issues. **An exemption is requested** for those taxi Owners from being affiliated with Taxi Company so that they are not suffering from stress from weekly overhead expenses mentioned in column three.
- 7) There are some taxi licences sold by Qld Govt with seven seater stipulation attached to it which at that time was required by the growing consumer demand. But after UBER has been legalised, there is no demand for seven seater bookings because ten seater Maxi taxis are successfully fulfilling this demand. So please remove this stipulation and

allow all those owners to replace with standard cars rather than 7 seater which really are expensive to maintain and operate.

- 8) Currently UBER drivers can move anywhere in Australia and start working in any city of the country without any restrictions. **VERSUS** all taxi licences are subject to area operation restrictions. Why we are subject to this kind of slavery clause?

I am having plan to relocate to another city but I can't sell or lease my taxi licence and therefore I am stuck here in Brisbane.

- 9) At present there is limit on the number of taxi licences but no such restriction on UBER growing numbers and currently more than 10,000 UBER cars are operating in Brisbane. Should be a limit on their over growing numbers.

- 10) Currently all the taxis are subject to affiliation with taxi companies such as B&W OR Yellow who are charging the same amount of their Radio/base fee which they were charging earlier. There must be strict guidelines for these taxi companies as well to control their monopoly in regards to their fee and charges.

- 11) UBER is taking 25% of the driver share as their commission without paying any GST or tax. It should never be overlooked. Any overseas internet based service provider should not be allowed to make joke of the law of the country and therefore UBER must pay tax and gst and the legislation must be passed accordingly.

I am very hopeful to get help from you as your assistance will prove to be life saver for this dying taxi industry.

Warm Regards

Sanjeev Kumar(Taxi Licence Owner)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Honourable Qld Transport Minister & Qld Premier

Further to my letter written on Dated 10th March 2017 , I would like to bring some following points for your kind consideration in regards to stage two for implementing the new framework for Queensland's Personalised Transport Industry:

1) SECURITY CAMERS:

Is mandatory for taxis due to anonymity of rank and hail services.

But for booked hire service (UBBER) will be required ONLY if their service delivery model involves cash or electronic payment being made in person.

I must admit that our politicians are really genius to favour UBBER because we all know that UBBER directly charge the fare out of customer's account.

Dear Genius politicians, just a friendly reminder that a rape incident had happened in UBBER car in NSW. An UBBER driver was smashed in his head in Fortitude valley and both of above incidents could have been avoided had there been a camera installed in the car.

I hardly remember any incident when a camera has been downloaded by Police or by taxi booking company for identify a fare runner. I also do not recall any historical incident when a cabbie has been attacked just because of snatching few cash dollars from him. When ever the attack had happened, it always had happened due to aggressive conversation between cabbie and passenger.

TAKE PREVENTIVE ACTION NOW AND MAKE SECURITY CAMERAS COMPULSORY FOR ALL OF US.

WE ALL TRASPORT PASSENGERS FROM POINT 'A' TO POINT 'B' FOR MONEY AND SAFETY IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE.

2) COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE:

Classs 3 for Taxis which is still \$6519 Or little less?

Class 26 ????? OR Class 4 for rental vehicles... which is what and how much??????

Taxis, booked hire services and limousines are all doing same service i.e transporting passengers from door to door. So the CTP must be equal for every one. Level playing field for every one.

3) SERVICE AREAS:

Taxis are subject to limit of area of operation. Means that a Brisbane taxi cannot operate in Gold Coast or Sunshine coast areas.

But Booked hire service driver can easily move around in whole of Australia and is able to accept job in any area.

Why taxi drivers have been subject to slavery conditions? We all are stuck to drive our own taxis as we can't sell the licence nor we can find anyone to take our licence on lease.

Please do the same kind of relaxation for those owners to move across their licence to other areas of operation in case they shift to that part of the land.

OR

Relax those owners to keep their destroyed values taxi licences in photo frames and allow them to hang that frames in that corner of the house where they can't see it and accordingly can avoid getting depression or heart attack.

- 4) Under practical licensing arrangements section it has been mentioned that current service License conditions will be streamlined and simplified namely those relating to high occupancy vehicles, owner/drivers and green vehicles.

Owner/ Driver clause is the current topic for discussion among owners. It is being interpreted, they all that owners who have bought conditional people mover seven seater taxi licences in the past either in the tender directly from the Qld Govt. Or from seller in the market will be treated as unconditional because there is no demand for these seven seater vehicles as all these kind of 7 seater jobs are being fulfilled successfully by ten seater Maxi taxis.

If the above version is correct then your decision of doing so is highly appreciable as this is very correct that there is hardly any demand for seven seater people mover vehicles. It's better if all the owners can replace their existing vehicles in sedan cars as these hybrid cars are easy to maintain.

HOWEVER there is no need to remove the requirement of a owner driver condition to drive 150 shifts per year attached already to these type of conditional people mover taxi licences on the following grounds:

- a) It will be totally unfair for all those owners who had paid heavy prices to buy their unconditional people mover licenses as compared to conditional people mover licences price. For example:- Unconditional people mover taxi licences were sold in the past for \$385,000 plus stamp duty VERSES conditional People mover licences were sold in a tender for \$235,000 by the Qld Govt.
- b) All the owners are driving their taxis by themselves for seven days and therefore removing condition to drive 150 shifts per year really doesn't benefit all these owner drivers at all as they all are driving their own taxis anyway due to shortage of drivers.

5) CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK:

There is no such provision or requirement in the document which says that all UBBER drivers will be subject to driving history or criminal checks.


Some of franchised companies these days have started using services of third party (Eqifax previously known as VEDA) to conduct 100 points ID check including criminal history check for all new incoming franchisees.

Please include criminal history check requirement for all UBBER existing or new drivers for safety of our own people.

- 6) Fine has been doubled for booked hire service vehicles from @243 to \$487 for touting and soliciting for passengers. That's great.....but your transport compliance staff isn't enough to cover the night shifts to track down and then issue fines to all those offending drivers. Then who is going to be a watch dog on all these 10,000 plus UBBER drivers in the midnight on weekends? Many of UBBER drivers are still picking up passengers in front of Taxi Ranks specially in Brisbane CBD area like Queen street and Casino taxi ranks. Yes... we all the taxi drivers will help you to report all those offending UBBER drivers with time & date if you make a provision of installing 24 hour surveillance cameras on city taxi ranks so that offending drivers can be captured on these cameras.
- 7) At present there is limit on number of taxi licences but no restriction on UBBER cars as they are currently more than 10,000 operating in Brisbane. Even UTES are being used as UBBER. Is any standard are you going to maintain for UBBER cars? Have you thought about putting any restriction on the growing numbers of UBBER cars?
- 8) There is provision in the document that all personalised transport services will have to operate under taxi, limousine or booked hire service licence.
That's great. But who is going to put control on the monopoly of these companies? Taxis have lost 50% of the total income for drivers and owners are struggling to find the drivers. BUT the taxi booking companies are still charging the same amount of their Radio fee which they were charging earlier.
Can you please care about putting any guidelines for all the booking companies to control their over charged fee.
- 9) UBBER is taking money out of the country without paying any gst and tax for their charged 25% commission.
You being our elected politicians to run the country should be careful to nab down the company which is violating tax rules and regulations. So Care about making guidelines how to make UBBER liable to pay gst and Tax.

Looking forward to see how seriously you will be taking action.

Warm Regards
Sanjeev Kumar



Honable Qld Premier

I am writing this letter to congratulate you and your team for taking Qld to a new direction of progress. I migrated to Brisbane in year 2007 and since then I have seen Brisbane progressing a lot. Airport link tunnel, Legacy way tunnel, multi storey high rise apartments within CBD area are just some of the excellent examples of the progress which Brisbane has made and it all happened under your leadership. I have full confidence into your leadership as a Qld premier.

BUT my confidence gets stuck into coma when matter comes of your decision to legalise the Ride sharing company 'UBBER' I am still in a kind of trauma condition to figure out that what has impacted you and your team to make this decision. I personally do have full confidence into your leadership but I am also being affected by others when they gossip about your team's honesty.

Without prejudice and just only FYI : One day I picked up passenger in Hamilton area who was supporting One Nation Party and he accused that one of your transport minister spouse/partner does have some kind of close relations with UBBER management from where they are receiving undue benefits. I am sure that you and your team must be fully aware of all these sort of crooked allegations. But with humble submission, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the following facts which aren't crooked facts:

- 1) All the taxi licences were sold by the Qld Government in the past at tender prices which had ranged from \$125,000 plus stamp duty for Maxi Taxi licence and \$325,000 plus for people Mover and standard licences. I myself have bought people mover licence for \$385,000 plus stamp duty.

- 2) Standard Taxi licences value were over \$540,000 and now have been devalued as \$150,000 just because UBBER has been legalised and half of work has been taken away by UBBER drivers.

Oh what a big damage has been done by this decision!

- 3) On dated 24th Jan 2017, Pauline Hanson has made a speech in taxi council special General meeting held at Convention centre and she clearly supported taxi industry saying that it becomes the 'Duty of care' for the government to offer fair compensation to the owners for an act which has caused damage to the value of the taxi licence. Offer of \$20,000 to every owner for loss of Income for the next five years isn't enough. There must a fair compensation for the value of the licence itself.(Full Video recording for her speech captured on my mobile camera is available for your reference if interested)
- 4) To the best of my law knowledge, any state government can acquire any asset if that asset is required for the growth of the State's economy but in return govt. must offer market value as compensation to the owner whose assets or its value has been decreased or damaged due to such action of the government.
- 5) I have genuine belief that our taxi licence value has been devalued just because of UBBER has been legalised and this all has happened because of your government decision to announce so.
- 6) UBBER may have created many jobs for many overseas students Or who wants to work part time only OR for mums who can't work full time due to their little one commitments OR for some people who have made redundant from their jobs. But have you ever thought about that these so claimed job opportunities are actually the result of caused damage to well

- e) No driving history required (18 years can be UBBER driver
Verses it required one year driving experience on Australian
road before someone can apply for taxi licence.),
- f) No minimum standard for a car from safety point of view (
One of UTE tradie turned up in front of passenger to pick
her up as an UBBER driver),
- g) No responsibility towards our disable passengers (In taxi
industry all wheel chair maxi drivers require them to be fully
trained to handle disable passengers)
- h) UBBER is dropping off and picking up some school kids to
school by themselves without any adult supervision. Imagine
if one of UBBER driver gone mad to abuse a little angel in his
UBBER car because no one is watching.

ACTIONS EXPECTED FROM YOU AS A PREMIER:

Take preventive action rather than repenting and curing it later. Queenslanders have bestowed you an extreme wonderful political powers into your hands. Please use your bestowed political powers and take the following corrective actions quickly enough before it turns unto disaster:

- a) Do set up same rules and regulations for UBBER as well
what the taxis are on for a level playing field. So all UBBER
cars:
 - 1) Must have camera installed,
 - 2) Driver criminal history check compulsory,
 - 3) Area knowledge test compulsory,
 - 4) CTP/ Registration must be same as taxis are paying i.e
\$6200 per year.(Don't let them take an excuse of Ride
share.....all UBBER drivers are transporting passengers

from door to door service and this falls under definition as Taxis)

- 5) For all Queenslanders's safety, all UBBER cars must go through and pass vehicle inspection test.
 - 6) As taxi industry is regulated by Qld Government, the taxi Fare and UBBER fare must be equal. Consumers are using UBBER by risking their lives only because UBBER is cheap in fare. You are more than welcome either set the taxi fare equal to UBBER OR increase the UBBER fare equal to Taxi fare. Whatever suits best to
 - 7) Qld economy.
- b) Currently due to shortage of taxi drivers, there are many taxis sitting at taxi yards or at owner's homes without drivers and owners are also unable to drive by themselves because of their other business commitments either they are multi licence owners OR due to their health issues. Can you please temporarily exempt those taxi Owners from being affiliated with Taxi Company so that they are not suffering from stress from weekly overhead expenses mentioned in column 3.
- c) There are some taxi licences sold by Qld Govt with seven seater stipulation attached to it which at that time was required by the growing consumer demand. But after UBBER has been legalised, there is no demand for seven seater bookings because ten seater Maxi taxis are successfully fulfilling this demand. So please remove this stipulation and allow all those owners to replace with standard cars rather than 7 seater which really are expensive to maintain and operate.

I am very hopeful to get help from you as your assistance with your full support with above suggestive corrective actions will help this dying taxi industry.

Your positive assistance will also help you to get more votes in the upcoming elections.

Warm Regards

Sanjeev Kumar

Licence Owner.