Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Bill 2017

From:	
To:	Public Works and Utilities Committee
Subject:	Submission in Response To The Transport & Other Legislation (Personal Trannsport Reform) Ammendment Bill 2017)
Date:	Friday, 7 April 2017 11:44:57 AM
Attachments:	List of Requirements (8).pdf

Committee Secretary Public Works & Utilities Commission Parliament House

We are writing to this Commission to express our personal position related to the changes effecting the taxi industry, and with respect to the changes to the personal transport sector.

We began operating in this industry in 1976, working day and night as this was the only means by which we were able to establish ourselves!

Initially driving for other operators until such time as we could purchase the beginnings of our compliment of taxis.

We were and still remain, heavily financed to the banks and we believed that we were establishing ourselves for our future so as to be self funded in our retirement years.

We employed drivers and the services of Mechanical and Electrical businesses, Tyre merchants, Radio technicians etc. thus creating employment in the local community and we took pride in serving the travelling public of the state.

As Taxi operators, we were more than just drivers, and took the comfort and safety of our customers very seriously!

I personally performed school transport for a range of students who were disadvantaged physically and or mentally and took my role in the transport industry to heart, caring for these individuals in ways beyond my role as a driver and assisting with their every need. Sometimes this required lifting passengers to and from my car or remaining with a disadvantaged child or adult when a parent or guardian was held up at work until they arrived home, or simply providing a friendly caring attitude to those in need.

We understood that this was a vital service industry managed by the Qld Government and we adhered to all State and Federal regulation as was required and took our responsibility seriously.

As an operator ,costly additions to the safety framework for Taxis were required e.g. cameras,recording technology etc and we willingly complied, at our own continuing expense, because we understood the need for these advances.

We are essentially just Mum & Dad owners and now in our later years having lost more than 70% of our monthly income, have been forced to keep working in an attempt to remain financial as a result of the Qld Government decision to allow UBER and other Ride Share entities ,to enter the market with little overhead cost structure and no respect for the rules surrounding Public Transport. We cannot continue under these circumstances.

We are further compromised by the fact that we bought taxi licences within our super fund and now our self funded retirement fund capital has not only reduced but also our future earning capacity. A lifetime of building our future as self funded retirees wiped out with the stroke of a State Government pen.

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We face financial hardship and potentially financial ruin if we are forced to continue having to compete with ride share entities on terms which are far from equitable, and when those operators, don't bear the cost structure associated with the Qld Taxi Industry, and continue to have total disregard for transport regulation.

We have attached a copy of TCQ summary, representing the specific actions we need to see implemented by the Qld State Government in terms of amending the legislation.

We implore the State Government to make the necessary amendments which will restore fair and equitable competition to our industry.

Thank you in anticipation of your response to our desperate position.

Sincerely A& V Harrison