


Victoriano de Jesus



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

Dear Committee Secretary, I'm writing to you to express deep concern regarding the Bill. It will certainly have a negative impact on drivers like myself.

I have been driving for Uber for almost 2 years now. I took it up to supplement the unsteady cashflow from a business that I had started around the same time. It was a great alternative for me and I was able to grow the business more sustainably. The flexibility that Uber offered allowed me to achieve the following:

- Meet with my business clients when I was needed,
- Attend to pressing matters regarding my business, and
- Work extra hours to alleviate financial pressure.

There was even a time when my business wasn't doing well and I had to drive for Uber on a full-time basis. This short break from the business allowed me to rebuild and transform my business.

I am still working very hard and am very proud that I have not been unemployed or taken on any Centrelink payments. I firmly believe that social services ought to be reserved to those who need it the most. There's no need for me to take Centrelink resources when opportunities Uber or ridesharing exist.

I was very happy when ridesharing was legitimised last year. I felt that the government did a great thing to move commerce and innovation forward. It felt like there was support available for the entrepreneurial spirit that endures in Queensland.

However, I am once again deeply concerned and disappointed that another Bill is being proposed to hamper this progress. I don't think the additional costs associated with ridesharing are justified. In other words, it feels like fees are being added for the sake of having fees. There is no legitimate rationale or justification at all for the licensing fee or additional CTP costs.

Many ridesharing drivers like myself continue to rely on the opportunity ridesharing provides. When a Bill like this is being proposed, it threatens to take away this opportunity. It is against the spirit of being a Queenslanders at its core. Why should Queenslanders be left behind when other states are moving forward? Why discriminate fellow Queenslanders by preventing them to engage in free enterprise in their hometowns? Shouldn't everyone be allowed the opportunity to better their positions in life and provide for their families?

As a proud Queenslanders and productive citizen of this great city and state, I urge you to consider ridesharing drivers like myself when making your decision. The introduction of this Bill only makes the difficult task of improving our situations much harder. In many respects, it makes it outright unattainable for many others that don't have the financial means to get started.

I would like to continue being a ridersharing driver and in effect continue to build my own business sustainably. With a booming business, I hope to one day also provide jobs to others and continue to contribute in the economic landscape of Brisbane and Queensland as a whole.

In exchange for being a responsible citizen, I expect responsible governance by honourable officials. I am certain this Bill is not a step in the right direction.

Thanks for reading my letter.
Sincerely,

Victoriano de Jesus