

7 April 2017

Committee Secretary Transportation and Utilities Committee Parliament House George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We write this submission in order to bring to your department's attention, the changes required to be made to the Transport and other legislation amendment bill, to create a level playing field for the operation of all involved in personalised transport in Queensland.

Those making decisions in your department thus far, lack any understanding just how many everyday Queenslanders, like us, are affected and the detrimental effect it is having on our lives.

Your department should be looking after Queenslanders, first, before bowing down to an international company who initially broke every law put in place for Queenslanders. The same laws that every Queenslander involved in the taxi industry continues to adhere to.

It seems incredible to me that a government that has taken payment for the sale of licences to the taxi industry, can then at a whim throw the whole industry under the metaphoric bus.

As licence owners we had invested in the industry to ensure we were self-sufficient at retirement age, therefore not requiring funding from the government. This is now in jeopardy and with significant debt still attached to these licences and children in tertiary education, we are placed in a very precarious position where we will be making payments on a valueless asset that produces no income or worse, with the economy like it is, unable to make payments.

As bad as this is for us, I cannot imagine how those that rely completely on the industry for their income are coping. No one in the industry has a problem with competition. We do however have issues with the way an overseas company has dictated terms to the government in handing them personalised transport on a plate with none of the costly requirements that are imposed on the taxi industry.

Following this letter, I have attached a list provided by the Taxi Council of Queensland, showing the requirements your department should consider, to make this industry fair to all participants.

David Dall'Alba

## **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.