

7 April 2017

Committee Secretary
Public Works & Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have been owners of a Gold Coast Taxi Licence since November 1989. We chose to purchase and retain a Taxi Licence as the legislature in place had ensured it was a safe investment with a reliable income that we intended on utilizing as our superannuation once we reached retirement age. This investment was based on our trust that the government understood and respected those who invested in its interests and industries.

The advent of Ride share has thrown our safe secure investment and consequently our life plans into disarray. The recent legislature changes surrounding personalized transport are a direct betrayal of the financial and personal investment we placed in the state government for the last 28 years.

Since a back operation approximately 16 years ago I have no longer been able to drive the cab on a day-to-day basis, however, we were able to receive a regular income from the Lease of our licence. This 'regular income' has now been thrown into turmoil. We are no longer able to rely upon the same steady payment from the operator every month and the Lease payments are now on a sharp decline. We have worked hard throughout our lives to have financial independence in our retirement years, however at the rate of this decline our future is in a dire state. The personal impact of this on our family and us has been dramatic. The anxiety and stress resulting from this situation has changed our lives on a daily basis, pushing our family relationships to the extreme.

We implore the committee to legislate on the list of requirements submitted by the Taxi Council, a copy of which is attached hereto. Our future is in your hands.

Yours faithfully,
DES & WENDY SMITH

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.