

PO Box 222
Mt Gravatt
Qld 4122
8th April, 2017

Research Director
Public Works and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

RE:

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

Dear Research Director,

I, like my husband, am writing to express my grave concerns about this Bill and the accompanying documents.

I am also elderly and expect to be able to drive for only one or two more years.

I don't have a smart phone, couldn't use one anyway, and I have never used a computer. The only way I can call a taxi is on our home phone.

I agree with my husband. This legislation wants to totally ruin the taxi industry. An industry that has operated under strict Government control for many, many years, and now it will be virtually uncontrolled with the introduction of this new Bill.

I also have always found taxis to be great. They are clean and reliable, come promptly when I call them, and know where they are going. I have always found the drivers helpful, friendly and polite, and the vehicles are very, very clean.

If all these changes make taxis go broke and I can't catch taxis, I will be trapped at home and won't be able to get to the shops to buy groceries, or go to my doctor when necessary.

I also am terrified for my grand-daughters as I don't see that cars driven by strangers are safe for young women if they don't have secure cameras, safety standards, and genuine driver checks, exactly the same as taxis currently do.

When I catch taxis, some of the drivers tell me that some of their passengers are “pretty rough characters” and that they are really glad to know that help comes instantly when they press their special alarms if anything were to happen. All drivers deserve to have the same protection if something were to happen.

I am appalled that our Queensland government has given in to Uber, and allowed them to operate in Queensland, totally illegally for two years – a big overseas company that doesn’t pay tax in Australia, by comparison to the taxi licence holders who pay GST and income tax.. The cabbies I talk to pay tax. Uber have not operated within the law for nearly two years. We should not let them bully the people of Queensland with the government establishing a new Bill to “Make their operation legal”. – don’t change our laws and give in to a bully.

Lastly, I am horrified to see a Labor government not sticking up for the ordinary workers’ rights, the rights of the taxi drivers who are now not receiving the basic hourly rate for the time they spend at the wheel. Whose income has more than halved because of the illegal entry of Uber.

I was at the meeting with Cameron Dick, Minister for Health last Saturday and listened to the genuine taxi drivers expressing their concerns with the governments approach to this Bill.

Please throw out this very bad piece of legislation, start again, and fix the mess that this government has created with the taxi industry. It just looks like the train disaster all over again.

Yours faithfully

Pauline Francis

Also a concerned Self-Funded Retiree