

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Works and Utilities Committee](#)
Subject: Re: The Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Bill 2017
Date: Sunday, 9 April 2017 10:56:24 PM

To the Research Director
Public Works and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street, Brisbane 4000.

Dear Sir

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

We the undersigned taxi owner operators and driver are writing to you today urging you to not proceed with the abovementioned Bill which we believe is 'LOSE - LOSE' for not only the taxi industry but all Queenslanders, UNLESS IT IMPOSES SIGNIFICANT COSTS ON RIDESHARE for ever - in the interests of FAIRNESS, EQUITY and RESPECT for the contribution Queensland taxis have made in providing full time jobs and a viable industry .

As well, you need to assist in a far greater degree of taxi SUBSIDY and COMPENSATION , so that taxi fares can be reduced for the travelling public to whatever level you think appropriate!

We taxi owners and operators and driver can no longer see a long term future for taxis, with rideshare using predatory pricing and heavy marketing to buy the market with bribery and corruption on an ongoing campaign. Clearly an individual taxi operator/owner cannot do anything about fighting a massive multi-national if the government is weak and lets bribery steal the industry without penalty as is suffered by taxis.

Recently we have purchase taxi vouchers from Yellow's taxi company to give to some of our needy passengers, as they tell us they will continue to use taxis, and not rideshare, which they are disgusted about. This is costing us a lot of money which is not tax deductible, and we should not have to do this, as the government sets taxi fares. How upsetting is this situation! Our income has naturally been severely reduced and we do not know how to deal with it if we have a bad government, who wants to destroy us in this ridiculously unfair manner, while we obey all the rules, and are exhausted, and with our health suffering .

The Queensland Government has in effect DEVALUED our 3 taxi businesses by possibly 80% and given them away to a predatory rideshare industry for NOTHING.

The Queensland Government continues to be successfully lobbied by 'rideshare' to allow

them to operate FREELY in a PREDATORY MANNER. It appears they cannot be stopped or controlled by the Qld Government, despite many countries banning them, eg Italy, China, Taiwan, Hungary, and some USA states rejecting them..eg Hawaii, although uber does not listen to politicians and tells people to break the law. Thousands of people like us paid the Qld Government dearly for the right to provide taxis AT OUR OWN COST under Government rules, and for drivers to earn a reasonable income, in order to be reliable and sustainable.

You have dishonoured us and do not deserve any respect, as you have put the Uber catchcry of "customer first" at the forefront at the expense of the workers, who are becoming an underclass of employees or self-employed people. Yes of course everyone wants a cheap deal, but customers cannot be encouraged to UNDERPAY for legitimate work, as Rideshare does! You would not work for such income.

The future unless you stop it now is indicating that Rideshare will one day want a RETURN on investment - and prices will be expensive - once they take the market and destroy people like us! That is what you are supporting. Please STOP IT!

We are now seeing collapse of value of our 3 licences which are now virtually unsaleable , and so we cannot retire or make any plans, and face dreadful financial prospects . We now operate 2 of those licences ourselves, with 3 drivers over 70 years of age working some 60 hours+ a week. This is surely wrong, and you are responsible for younger drivers exiting the taxi industry.

All of our previous submissions to you appear to have been discarded. We organised a petition to you against Rideshare of around 1000 drivers' signatures, and it did not achieve anything. That is shameful, and shows taxis are just nothing to you!

We do not like your proposed Amendment Bill 2017. It is not good for taxis, and makes it very easy for Rideshare to operate at minimal cost. How you must hate us, and how you have been 'sucked in' by Rideshare propaganda! The ATO has judged that Rideshare is EXACTLY THE SAME AT TAXIS, and so all governments should require them to be under the same set of rules fully.

We have noted a Lawyer recently described Uber's propaganda as ' GIBBERISH' ie 'double talk' claiming that rideshare's claim to the future is rubbish as it is actually a return to the bad past, actually it is very similar to the 'Dark Ages' when Feudal lords used slave labour to build their wealth.

Your Amendment Bill appears to have the following influences and tolerances:

- (1) propaganda (lies about their operations and intentions, popularity and value in the economy) by a foreign company who rejects rules of all kinds,
- (2) predatory pricing against which Taxis cannot compete, along with non-disclosure of

financials, taxes, and refusal to pay GST

(3) poverty - income is far less than minimum wages supported by the Labour Party, earned by both Taxis and Rideshare

(4) poor management is tolerated- and oversupply of vehicles for hire is ignored, causing increased traffic congestion

(5) de-regulation of the taxi industry by stealth while publicly stating otherwise,

We pay incredible insurance and registration every year,boosting the Treasury's funds, and as an industry taxis pay some \$90mill in GST p.a. for Queenslanders to spend.

Yet behind our backs you are supporting Rideshare to operate for FREE, stealing taxi work, to be 'welcomed', to try to be 'popular' and get the votes of the people who do not care about the consequences suffered by thousands of taxi people who are trapped by you, with no ability to fight.

Whose side are you on? Clearly not ours. And yet your legislation is soft on Rideshare - as if you are afraid of being FAIR when considering the struggling taxi industry which is lucky to pay anything now to its owners and drivers, after obeying all your rules.

Please STOP listening to Rideshare peddlers and lobbyists, and having them write your legislation! Stop being BOUGHT! Or are you afraid of how clever Uber lobbyists are, and have decided people like us can just continue to suffer and being financially destroyed?

If you cannot be a strong FOR taxis, then you MUST BUY BACK ALL OUR LICENCES and set us free with our money back! There is no other moral way to go forward. Everyone in Queensland and Australia will agree with that, except ignorant people who do not know the facts.

Do you have any idea what is happening every day and night? Rideshare drivers are using taxi ranks and laughing at us, and even keeping taxis from using their own ranks. Uber has OFFERED HEAVY DISCOUNTS FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS TO ALL ON THEIR PLATFORM - WHY ARE YOU SUPPORTING THIS PREDATORY PRICING ?

Uber has also recently advertised pick up zones for their vehicles in the city and valley, so they can now do touting and hail work, assuming, like with the concerts recently , favouritism with your blessing.

The Qld Government must loving all the FINES you are collecting from STARVING TAXI DRIVERS trying to find a taxi rank on which to park at night time especially when ranks which are FULL because you have allowed unlimited predatory competition from people in private vehicles paying no fees!

We are very angry at the way BCC are cashing in also by fining taxi drivers who actually try to get on a rank - because you now do not offer enough space on any rank any more! You are allowing fines for taxis which stop in Bus stops which are not used at certain

times... You are no doubt too lazy to fix this problem and don't have a conscience about drivers losing 100% of their day's income in a single fine of \$182 for stopping for 3 mins at 1am in a bus zone when there is no bus around. Just disgraceful revenue raising for the BCC and/or Government, and hurting the taxi drivers who cannot find a place to park when ranks are full!

The Premier and State Govt lied when they said they wanted taxis (what a joke)! Typical politicians lying when announcing such nonsense! This is a LOSE - LOSE FOR TAXIS and a WIN WIN for Rideshare which play tricks on you and are controlling the Government, by clever targetted lobbying and pleading for better conditions bit by bit, until they have it ALL.

Your ALP politicians are lying to the public saying WIN WIN when they mean WIN for themselves and uber, because they consider Rideshare will win them the popular vote, as it is NOT a win for taxis. Is there any politician who can be trusted to do the right thing?

The taxi industry cannot fight you, as you have threatened us with the loss of our licence if we do not operate as required, and you have trapped us in to payments which are 10 times the cost of rideshare. Completely unfair and without justification, as many rideshare are working far longer than most taxis now.

Both politicians and many in the public have been sucked in / persuaded by clever propaganda and lies regarding the destruction of taxi people and the taxi industry. Taxis do not use bribery and corruption as they are all small/sole businesses open to scrutiny by yourselves (as we are). Having become involved in what we thought was an environmental industry as well as a genuine business, for superannuation when we reached 70, it is an absolute disaster for us that we have to drive 60 hrs a week to keep operating, while losing almost 100% of the licence values. Is that acceptable to you? This was our superannuation which is now wrecked.

This should not be acceptable to any government who was the beneficiary of my investment and effort.

We submit that you EITHER (1) outlaw rideshare completely,

OR (2) buy back all taxi licences for at least 65% of their 2014 value, YOU CANNOT HAVE BOTH - THEY CANNOT CO-EXIST!

and then MAKE ALL THE RULES THE SAME, or DO WHAT YOU LIKE BUT LET US MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES.

Yours faithfully

Helen Murray [REDACTED]

Wolf Vogel

