

6 April 2017

The Chairperson
Public Works and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

By Email: PWUC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission - I write out of desperation and frustration.

My wife and I are self-funded retirees who invested in three Brisbane Taxi licences via our Superannuation Fund.

As a result of Government decisions our income has now dropped by more than 73% and our capital has basically been lost.

Taxi licences were basically sold and regulated by the Government and prior to illegal operations of Rideshare being ignored by our Government, Brisbane licences sold at tender at \$400,000 plus. The industry was highly regulated by the Government and in many ways the taxi industry still is, but Uber and others are now operating with very little regulation and are just picking the eyes out of the business. The result of such is that we, along with many other small business operators and self-funded retirees are being brought to our knees financially.

We bought our taxi licences as an investment to support ourselves in retirement – it was considered an exceptionally large investment but offered considerable security because of the government regulatory involvement in the industry. Despite the hardship it caused to so many hard working, law-abiding Queenslanders the Government choose to legalise Rideshare without any of the restrictions it places on the taxi operator. This was after failing to act against the illegal Rideshare operators in Queensland for some considerable time. Queensland Government now has the opportunity to correct it's mistake by levelling the playing field – something it certainly did not deal with in previous considerations.

We strongly recommend Government take action as recommended in the TCQ summary (*copy attached*) and amend this legislation and in doing so, support the thousands of Queenslanders whose lives have been financially devastated by the failure of our Government to deal fairly with the Rideshare issue.

We are sure you will, or indeed should, appreciate our concern and frustration.

Yours faithfully

RICK PERCIVAL

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.