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10th April, 2017

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

SUBMISSION STAGE 2 (Without Prejudice)

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Paul Scaini, and I speak on behalf of my parents who are 86 and 83 years young.

I am a Chartered Accountant who has a small Brisbane based business, with clients who are predominantly small business owners and Individual taxpayers.

In addition to a variety of other industries, I have taxi license owners, operators and drivers as clients. I also have Rideshare drivers as clients.

I have a wife, three children and a grandchild.

I have a brother who suffers from a total and permanent disability that sees him unable to work.

He has a wife and 2 small children.

My mother and father tied up much of their life savings in the acquisition of two Taxi licenses.

I am learning everyday about how complicated this industry is, and how complicated this matter is, but I don't need to be an expert to understand that good people, good Australian people have been forsaken by their Governments and these Governments need to be held accountable.

This proposed legislation is a disgrace.

It is an ill-conceived set of words designed to focus power into the hands of a chosen few and to get around the due process, that is fundamental to most democratic political systems.

The Authors of this legislation, this waste of paper, are undoubtedly the same brilliant minds who chose to squander the transitional funds of \$ 20,000 per license on each Taxi License Owner in the State, irrespective of whether that Taxi License Owner had in fact been affected.

That is Taxpayer Monies that you wasted on ill-conceived legislation and assistance, just like the money that has been wasted on this raft of measures.

Remember this money was not compensation, it was transitory assistance, assistance from a Government who broke the system that previous Governments had created and gave undertakings to stand by.

If you can't run trains on time, if you can't fix this Taxi Industry mess you have created, if you can't Govern fairly and act on behalf of the Citizens you swore to represent, then I wish you would all resign

A government who fails to enforce the Laws of the Land, who aids and abets Criminals to undertake illegal activities in this State and Country, have no right to be in power.

Imagine if a police officer refused to apprehend a Bank Robber or Murderer, simply because it was too difficult, inconvenient or unpalatable to enforce the Law.

As elected Governments, you didn't do your jobs, not because you couldn't, but because you wouldn't, you decisively chose not to.

You chose to abandon the system and the Queensland people.

You held the door open whilst the bank robbers both entered and left the building and with this and your previous legislation, you are now calling the Rideshare Operators to ensure they get away.

You are accomplices to crime and you should be ashamed.

In the absence of a full repeal to Rideshare Legislation and a reversion to the previous system, like what is occurring in some Overseas countries, then Taxi License Owners need the Capital and Income value of their License restored to the levels that they were at, prior to the Sell-out of the Industry.

This could come in lump sum form, as per details in the current e-petition that is collecting signatures on your Government website, or it could come in the form of ongoing adequate income compensation or assistance, paid to them annually, in whatever form is fair and equitable.

Surely it would be simple enough, if you can't find the lump sum money to buy back licenses at their fair value, you simply impose levies and generate a fund from which shortfalls in Taxi License Owners Revenue that is derived by them annually, could be supplemented by an annual top up payment.

This would return both Capital and Income Value to License Owners.

It is a just and fair measure to subrogate your betrayal, but I see nothing like this mentioned in the proposed legislation. The proposals are neither just, nor fair.

How you raise and collect the funds to pay for this is your issue!

You made this mess, now fix it and fix it to our satisfaction!

I do not see how these proposals correlate with the purposes and objectives contained within TOPTA CH 1 3. (1) (2) & (3)(which remain in force) and /or transport and other legislation Amendment Bill 2017 Chap 7 Part 1.68.

Like many others, my father came to this country at the age of 21, shortly after the end of World War 2.

He didn't speak the English language at all.

He worked in remote places and in trying conditions and he often did work that many Australians would, at the time, refuse to do.

It was hard work, back breaking work, and he was toiling under a hot sun.

He worked long days, long weeks and long years and he rarely took holidays.

Each year he would send his family on a holiday and join them only on weekends.

He saw it as his responsibility to work and provide for his family and that didn't leave much time for holidays.

When he first arrived in Australia and started working, he sent part of the money that he earned back home to his parents and siblings overseas.

That was until he had a family of his own to support

He spent his entire life trying to do the right thing by his family and community, pulling his weight and quite often the weight of others.

He may have been an immigrant, he may not have been able to speak the English language when he arrived, he may have been called a New Australian or Wog, but he brought to Australia the type of values that you now hold out to be very much Australian. He was hard working, he gave a fair go and he was, and still is, just and equitable.

My father and mother have never drawn a Government pension, not that I am saying there is anything wrong with drawing a pension. In my opinion, a pension of some amount should be paid to all hard-working Australians who have paid taxes to the Government throughout their life and it is my understanding that this was, at one stage, the plan Australia had.

Apparently, it was the plan to pay Pensions to all Australians, until a Government of the day saw too much money sitting in the consolidated revenue that it had gathered from workers to fund these pensions, so it scrapped the plan and stole the money from its citizens, all in the name of National Interest.

I now see that Governments have a long history of betraying the people they supposedly represent.

Who can do business with you without attaching a huge premium for the risk associated with doing business with Criminals.

I voted for you to represent me. My parents voted for you. You are our elected representatives who have promised to do the right thing by Queenslanders and uphold our Laws.

I and my parents have paid our taxes and dues, we have undertaken business risks and my parents were fortunate enough to accrue sufficient money to be termed self-funded retirees.

They have not been, what you Politicians would say, a burden on the system, yet you conveniently forget that those Burdens are often the same people who paid for many of you to get an education, who fought for, and some died for, your Australian way of life.

My parents didn't have great access to Superannuation Savings, so in retirement, or semi- retirement, they bought these licenses because they considered investing in a Taxi license to be a relatively safe and secure investment.

After a life of hard work and risk taking, they considered that partnering with their State Government and Investing in a Government Sponsored, Regulated and Controlled Industry, to be a safe and prudent way to generate sufficient income and security for themselves.

Income that would see them through their retirement years and then maybe even help provide some security for their children, once they had passed.

My parent's story is not unique, it is a quite common one.

But what the State and Federal Governments are now doing to them, and to people like them, is immoral and very much, un-Australian.

Over the past 50 or so years you have taken taxes from them and other Taxi License Owners.

You have taken money for assets that you sold, or allowed to be sold to them, and others like them, and you have reaped many, many Billions of dollars in revenue from the industry, both directly and indirectly.

In return for this, you have the audacity to try and financially destroy them and people like them.

This is the thanks they get from their State and Federal Governments.

You're thanks to them for their years of hard work, and taxes.

You should be ashamed to call yourselves "representatives" of the people.

I have met with many of you politicians lately.

People who are skilled talkers, people who are two faced and who pretend to care.

People who sympathise, but twist words to their own benefit and agenda.

They say my parents and people like them have no legal rights, that there was no real partnership with the Government or Investment in the State by them.

Yet you took their money!

I have been told that the risks they took were business risks and its sad that previous Governments promised to support and not deregulate the Industry, but now that's just too bad and too sad for them and people like them.

Few of these people really wanted to listen and help.

They don't care because it isn't them suffering, it isn't their families who are being affected.

They all want to be seen to be helping, or pretend to be helping, they all want to come out when there is a flood or a fire, they all want you to think that they are helping, they all love having their photo taken with a broom or a shovel in their hand, but they aren't listening to me or people like me, because they are just talking and smiling for the cameras.

If I can find a Politician whose actions back up their talk, who cares about what is right and equitable and Australian, then I will vote for them, but I won't vote for this Labor Government.

We need to find Politicians who won't stab you in the back, roll you over and gut you like this State's Labor Government, and the Federal Liberal Government has done to my Parents.

I know I am naïve, but all around this country, people like me, people in our situation, are now desperate and disillusioned, and they need Politicians who care about them.

Who care about the Australian's that they are elected to represent and not just themselves.

There are Taxi License Owners who have already or soon will be bankrupted due to this Government's betrayal, due to this Governments deliberate inactions and thoughtless actions.

There are families who already have or will have their homes or assets repossessed, especially if these proposals are enacted.

There have been suicides, and there will no doubt be more.

I have spoken to many State and Federal Politicians from each of the various parties, and most acknowledge the injustice that has been inflicted on my parents and people like them.

All bar the most arrogant and dismissive, the ones who, if they spoke to me in a Pub like they do in their meeting rooms, would soon have me asking them to step outside.

Many are sympathetic, but few will do what is required to be done.

Labor politicians won't speak out against the party or leadership, for fear of losing their jobs, or betraying their so-called principles of Solidarity.

State Liberals are too busy blaming Labor for anything and everything, conveniently omitting the fact that they allowed this mess to commence, and hiding behind the fact that they aren't in power, so they can't fix anything.

They won't even tell us what they will do because they proclaim that their policy may need to change due to changing events.

We aren't stupid, we all understand that Government Policy must be fluid.

Circumstances and events change and that requires policies to change, but the general direction or underlying nature of Policy doesn't have to change.

Do what's right for Australia and its people, and these proposals do not come anywhere near doing that.

We want acceptable answers and solutions and not the dribble that is this proposed legislation.

We want accountability and not the introduction of a system which will not solve the problems, but will add to the problems and allow the Government to push through changes without due process.

Each of you cowards know exactly what the right, moral and just thing to do is, but you either don't have the guts to do it, or you are too corrupt to do it.

This State Government continues to persecute my parents and others in this Industry through ill-conceived reforms, and you do this because you believe that the Taxi Industry consists of people that are either too elderly, too foreign, or too unintellectual to fight back.

That's a nice way of me saying that you think they don't matter!

You have done it before to other industries and tried to get away with it, and now it's my parents turn, the Taxi Industries turn.

You think nobody cares if you destroy them financially, if you steal from them. You think you don't have to answer to them.

But you do!

And you must to answer to all other Queenslanders and Australians.

Let me be very, very clear. The QLD State Labor Government, like Governments of other States, and the Liberal Federal Government, have deliberately failed to act against a Multi-National Company that has flouted numerous Australian Laws.

You have allowed them to operate illegally and without fear of any real prosecution.

The failure by the State and Federal Governments to adequately enforce laws that were in place prior to Ride Sharing taking a foothold in this country is a national disgrace, done with no adherence to the duty of care that these Governments owed to its citizens.

You didn't enforce the laws of the Land, you turned a blind eye to what was going on and you only undertook token actions because you were too busy selling my parents out.

We understand that for good or bad, rideshare has now been introduced as an addition to the previous QLD Transport System and now with this legislation you are trying to destroy the Financial standing of the participants in that system.

The State Labor and Federal Liberal Parties have legislated for the benefit of Foreign Multi-Nationals that really bring nothing to the table of Australia.

They bring no benefits to Australians, they steal resources from Australia and its citizens and you have done this deliberately at the expense of Taxi Industry participants and Australians citizens.

I would love to know the real reason why you have done this.

Why did politicians from all parties let it happen?

I would love to know what, if any, pieces of Silver you received, and if so, by whom.

We can all google the events and see what people of influence, of their Family members, have been rewarded and in what manner.

So now, as in every other state of this country, Qld Taxi License Owners and Qld Taxi Participants and Stakeholders have a very big problem.

A very big and complex problem, all courtesy of the QLD Labor Party and the Federal Liberal Party.

Both parties I am ashamed to say, I voted for.

I have supported the Qld Taxi Council in the past, and will continue to do so, but I do not necessarily believe that their views and ideas properly represent the views of Taxi License Owners, or will necessarily achieve the best result for Taxi License Owners.

There are many affected parties in the Industry, there are License Owners, Booking Companies, Taxi Operators, Taxi Drivers etc, and they all have quite different needs and desires for support, because of this Government's betrayal.

Whist Taxi Council Qld are doing a good job, I fear that they may not necessarily have the best interests of Taxi License Owners at heart and I certainly don't believe that they have adequately communicated Taxi License Owners views. They are trying, but I think they are falling a little short.

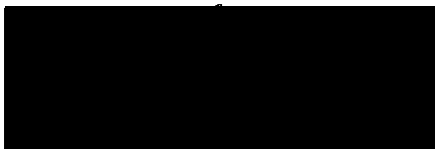
I may be wrong, but that is how I feel.

I hope that they continue to do their work, and I will continue to support their efforts, but I am not going to sit idly by and do nothing any longer, as I don't believe they are doing a good enough job.

We can suggest that levies be imposed; we can suggest that appropriate charges be applied to new participants so that there is the creation of level playing fields.

But please actually make them level and stop pretending and trying to hoodwink us.

I have seen the politicians sweep up flood debris for cameras, but we need Politicians who can cart excrement to the dump.



Paul Scaini