

PRIVATE SUBMISSION



8th April, 2017

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

PWUC@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE:

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

Dear Committee Secretary,

I am a university student writing to draw to your attention to the many problems I see with Uber, and the large number of problems that are evident in the Bill and associated legislation.

While a number of my friends have previously used Uber, all of them have found that the service is simply neither safe nor reliable enough for them. I have repeatedly had to drop home friends who ordered Ubers that never arrived. Beyond that, I have repeatedly seen Uber vehicles in the Valley causing, or nearly causing, accidents. Cars with the Uber sticker on the rear window have come to sudden stops, either causing nose-to-tail crashes, or forcing the cars behind them to make drastic and often risky evasive manoeuvres. I can only assume they suddenly realise they have to stop for a passenger, and fail to consider that there are other road users nearby who are unaware that the car in front of them is a commercial vehicle that might be constantly stopping, rather than a normal driver on their own standard trip.

I worry that the Bill does nothing to ensure that everyone in the state will be able to get a taxi or other form of transport when they need it. I also have friends who have lost their life savings because of what the government has done to the taxi industry in Queensland.

The Bill does not prevent further harm to either the industry, or to the people whose lives depend upon it, and leaves the industry vulnerable to the tyranny of monopoly in the future.

As the Explanatory Notes state: “the ability of the State to ensure compliance with the laws of Queensland is critical to upholding the rule of law.”

The State government has failed to ensure compliance with the laws of Queensland in the passenger transport sector since 2014, and the current Bill does little to suggest that this will improve.

I cannot help but fear that the attitude taken in this matter undermines the very validity of our laws and government. This foreign corporation has flagrantly ignored the existing laws, and used bullying tactics to force changes that compromise the safety and economic freedom of the people. I am deeply concerned by the example and precedent this sets.

The Qld taxi industry was an excellent example of cooperation between private industry, market freedom, community security, and government regulation. This state of affairs was sadly ruined by the influx of a poorer service from a foreign corporation that, despite proclamations of competition, is merely attempting to create their own monopoly at the expense of the consumer.

I ask that the Committee recommend that the government not pass the Bill and further, that the government revisit the Transport Strategy in order to formulate a specific and sustainable plan that will ensure Queenslanders have long term access to safe, affordable transport services. By necessity, this will require the whole approach to booked hire service to be revisited to assess whether a viable method can be found to integrate booked hire services sensibly into the existing market structure without the decimation of the historically successful and sustainable industry.

Thank you for noting my views.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the submitter.