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My Name is Sam Webber,

I'd firstly like to thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Enquiry Committee investigating the Transport and other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reforms) Amendment bill 2017 and Transport and other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reforms) amendment regulation 2017 tabled in Queensland Parliament On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

My family and I own two small businesses in South East Queensland. Both of our businesses are based in Redland City. I am the Managing Director of Statewide Tyre Wholesalers which is a medium sized tyre importer, wholesalers and distributor. I am also a Director for Redlands Taxi Management, which is a small taxi base in Capalaba running 20 + Yellow Cabs for the last 6 + years.

Amongst our 20 + Taxis, we own as a family one Taxi License, that like many others was bought as a commodity & is mortgaged against property. As you are all aware, the price for this license has decreased significantly in recent times due to the increase in ride-sharing across Queensland.

The current regulations on the Taxi industry have been developed over time, with the most consideration going to the customer and their safety. All these regulations come at a massive cost to the operators, but these costs are essential in keeping the industry sustainable, viable and safe. This is why Queensland has the best Taxi industry in the world. To consider reducing our regulations is to essentially consider sending the industry backwards. Taxi meters, dispatch systems, booking options, payment options, security cameras, vehicle inspections, CTP etc. all come at a great cost to the industry, but they have all been changed and developed over time to the keep the travelling public safe.

I would also like to make you aware of the massive mental and physical toll of having everything your family has worked for taken away from you to allow a tax avoiding off shore multinational do as they please and all to the detriment of public safety. I am 100% convinced that my Father's decline in health and ultimate death was certainly aided by the stress and worry caused by consecutive Governments lack of enforcement of the law and poorly thought out actions as well as complete disregard for our and many others livelihoods. We are now staring down the barrel of financial ruin and ultimately bankruptcy due to the down turn in revenue across both businesses and the reduction in value of our asset (Taxi License) I have also now been diagnosed with depression to which I am now being medicated for due to the stress and worry that all of this has caused and is still causing my family. My Mother was to be a self-funded retiree prior to this poorly thought legalisation now she is destined to be on the pension.

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The proposed Bill and Regulations are poorly constructed and fatally flawed. They do not deliver on the reforms identified by Government, will substantially and irrevocably increase the regulatory and enforcement costs for the Queensland budget and have the potential to negatively impact millions of Queenslanders. The principal flaws in the Bill and Regulations include –

- Lack of relevance to the unique personalised transport requirements and preferences of Queenslanders.
- Lack of understanding of the nature, characteristics, and operations of booked hire services globally and how they will evolve in the short term.
- Actively undermines and removes the workplace rights of an entire sector of workers, exposing them to exploitation and coercion.
- Insufficient protections for passengers and the community from demonstrated exploitation, violence and unethical behaviours of booked hire service providers and drivers.
- Lack of specificity and legal enforcement of new “duties “and “chain “of responsibility.
- Lack of appreciation of the likely fiscal and budget impacts or removal of Service Contracts and the shift of enforcement and policing responsibilities to the State Government.

Based on this I strongly urge you to reconsider your position on ride-share and adopt all the fair and reasonable requests put forward by the Taxi Council of Queensland –

1. Establish an independent Personalised Transport Commission with legislative amendment, policy/enforcement regulatory and policy development capabilities.
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 drivers and passengers (regardless of the service chosen) and to meet Queensland Police requirements.

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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 Regulations 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 evidenced 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 by default the 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 license 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 License 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 risk 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 and bus) sectors.
14. Fully integrate Taxis into Gocard public transport network in short term.
15. Clearly define what constitutes a "hail" and "touting".

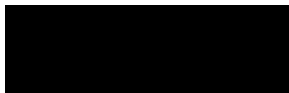
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16. Expressly prohibit the establishment of and operation of Booked Hire Service pickup/and drop off zones on public and private land which represents pseudo taxi ranks.
17. Establish and maintain a register of drivers that have been disaffiliated or removed from a platform 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 Authorisation 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.

Please do not financially ruin my family as well as other hard working, law abiding, tax paying families whilst at the same time pandering to a tax avoiding multinational that puts itself ahead of riders and drivers. When something does go wrong and believe me, it will as we are already seeing issues around the world the responsibility will come back on this Government and it's push for deregulation. Please reconsider your position.

Warm regards,



Sam Webber.