

Company Secretary
Public Works and Utilities Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4030

By now you would be aware of the many mistakes, inconsistencies and contradictions contained in the proposed stage two reform bill. I am deeply concerned that this bill has been introduced in this very sloppy manner. It is clear that the personnel involved in producing this document and the Minister presenting it to Parliament have no real understanding of the personalised transport industry. It is almost like a cut and paste job from other jurisdictions.

I am sure that this will be dealt in the more detailed submission by the TCQ.

My wife Lorraine and I own three Taxi Service Licences. One of these Licences was purchased by tender from the Government for \$395,500.00. The other two were purchased from within the industry and stamp duty was paid to the Government. Before the ride share industry began its illegal activities in Queensland our investment was valued at about \$1.5 million. Now, since the Minister has effectively deregulated the taxi industry, our investment is almost worthless. We still owe more than a half a million dollars to the bank.

Up to November 2016 we were receiving more than \$7,500.00 per month for our investment. Now the figure has reduced to \$2,400.00 which does not even cover the repayments.

We have now lost our retirement investment and are struggling financially.

We have no wish to deny the gullible public their right to use the unsafe ride share mode of transport. We do however want you to address the lack of safety in this venture.

We do not want our tax dollars to be used to compensate anyone who is injured because of an incident involving a ride share vehicle that does not carry adequate insurances, including public liability.

At the very least these, vehicle should have identifying number plates which can only be obtained from Queensland Transport on the production of an appropriate CTP certificate of currency.

Taxis and Limousines have always had identifying number plates. A removable sticker on the window is totally inadequate.

The proposed requirement is for an enlarged sticker on the front and rear window of the ride share vehicle, indicating to which platform the vehicle is attached.

What if the vehicle owner decides to be affiliated with more than one platform, why not three of them? Now they will be required to have a total of six enlarged stickers on the vehicle's windows.

Queensland Transport issued number plates covering all the ride share platforms would solve this problem and ensure correct CTP cover.

The Police and Transport Compliance officers would not have to stop every vehicle picking up a passenger to check their BHTX and CTP status etc.

There are many uninsured/rogue vehicles operating in the city, picking up hail work. This is particularly evident on weekend nights in the city.

All drivers engaged in the transport of people for hire or reward, including courtesy vehicle drivers, should be required to obtain an ABN before they are issued with a BHTX. They are already required to produce a medical certificate.

We know that certain ride share platforms do not pay any taxes in Australia. At least with an ABN the drivers would be identifiable as having a tax/GST obligation.

These are only a few of the measures required to rein in what has now become a 'free for all' in the Queensland personalised transport industry.

As Taxi Service Licence owners, we are not against competition.

We are concerned with the safety of the travelling public and the viability of the Queensland taxi industry which has a proud history going back almost 100 years.

We are only requesting, what has now become a well-worn cliché 'a level playing field'.

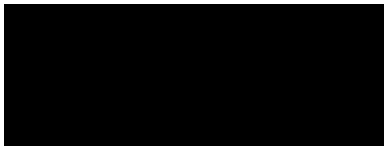
This is what the Minister and the Government has promised but, failed miserably to implement. The reform bill stage two is totally inadequate in this regard.

While my wife and I may be regarded as insignificant in the overall scheme of things, the taxi industry has a wide reach, affecting the livelihood of more than fifty thousand people including support services, hundreds of small businesses and their families.

Please listen and take note of what you are being told during this process.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours,

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Lorraine and Ronnie Woods

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