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07 APR 2017

RE. TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (PERSONALISED TRANSPORT REFORM)  
AMENDMENT Bill 2017

Dear Committee Secretary

I wish to highlight my concerns about proposed changes to the Bill mentioned above.

In mid 2016 I became unemployed, and despite numerous applications for both similar positions to my past experience, and even manual labouring, I was unsuccessful.

Uber has provided me an opportunity to cost effectively become self employed while seeking alternative employment. This was mainly possible as the extra costs incurred were limited to:

- a) Qld Transport licencing requirements  
(circa \$230 for 2 years)
- b) Reasonable CTP premiums available through selected insurers. (no change to my \$600 pa annual premium)

Changes proposed in the bill will make it impossible for people like myself to be able to cost-effectively offer ride-sharing services to the travellers who seek this alternative. The current situation allows me to drive around 30 hours per week and earn a relatively meagre net income, but the advantages include

- ① I am not a burden on the taxpayer, as I am not on welfare
- ② My mental health benefits as I am not sitting at home as a stressed unemployed loser.

I should point out that while I started driving in March this year, I have been an Uber passenger for many years, having first used the service in the USA when visiting, and becoming an enthusiastic ambassador of the brand. As soon as Uber became available in Brisbane, I became a heavy user. This was primarily because I had very bad experiences with Brisbane taxis, including filthy vehicles, aimless and poorly-trained drivers, and comparatively expensive fares to the airport.

From all the hundreds (probably thousands) of Uber drivers I have met, together with my own experiences, I believe the proposed amendments to the bill will create a loss of professional caring drivers, who will be unable to justify continuing to drive. It is not logical to treat a part time ride share driver and their vehicle under a model designed for the broken and <sup>(comparatively)</sup> unprofessional taxi industry.

I believe the Govt could explore a tax model to levy charges on Uber as an offshore corporation rather than punishing drivers, who are QLD residents and voters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

