



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2016

**HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (7.48 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This legislation will not only implement important reforms to Heavy Vehicle National Law but also deliver important support to Queensland taxi and limousine businesses. Many taxi and limousine businesses are small businesses and, as the Minister for Small Business, I want to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Transport and his commitment, along with this side of the House, to ensuring that small businesses of this state are encouraged and empowered to grow and employ.

That is why the amendments to the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 are so important. These amendments provide for the administration of the government's \$100 million industry adjustment and assistance package that will bring certainty to the industry and ensure the timely delivery of financial assistance. The Palaszczuk government's important reforms of the personalised transport framework put taxi, limousine and ride-booking services on a more even playing field while taxis continue to have exclusive access to rank-and-hail services.

Right now, customer demand is driving change in a way that we have never seen before. Long gone are the days that businesses of any kind or any size could await the arrival of their customer and simply offer them the products and services that they have available to sell. Consumers, customers, punters—however we want to describe them—are driving disruption in many industries. They are driving what products they want and the way they want them in a way that we have never seen before. A lot of that is to do with technology. The assistance that the Palaszczuk government is providing to taxi and limousine operators will support the industry to better respond to these changing customer demands and transport system needs.

Within the \$100 million package, \$3.7 million has been allocated to assist taxi and limousine businesses adapt to the new personalised transport framework. Through the Advance Queensland agenda and the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-20, the Palaszczuk government is working hard to support Queensland businesses to be more innovative and to make Queensland a place for small business to start, grow and employ. These reforms will build on that work by driving competition and innovation, delivering more choice for Queenslanders whilst maintaining high safety standards. The industry adjustment and assistance package is in addition to the \$22.7 million provided by the Advancing Small Business strategy that is already supporting Queensland's small businesses.

Another important benefit of the bill is the reduced regulatory burden placed on taxi and limousine businesses so that they have more time and flexibility to respond to new competition. We are cutting 80 regulations from the industry—a huge amount of red tape slashed. In addition, the taxi and limousine industry will benefit from \$4.3 million in waived fees over the next 12 months. Consumers will have

more choice and benefit from consistent safety standards, fare estimates and itemised receipts on request and more affordable travel. At the same time, the taxi and limousine industry is being supported through this immense disruption.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to growing a sustainable personalised transport industry. According to economic analysis by PWC, these changes will deliver a net economic benefit estimated at \$474.1 million across the state. That presents a huge opportunity, but we understand that change can be hard and disruption can be challenging financially. That is why this bill supports the government's efforts in the small business sector and delivers a balanced approach to regulating personalised transport. This ensures that we enable the sharing economy and unlock economic opportunity while also supporting the taxi and limousine operators. I commend the bill to the House.