




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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**TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (HIRE SERVICES) AMENDMENT
REGULATION: DISALLOWANCE OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.48 pm): When we rise in this chamber to speak on particular topics or in debates, we generally come from the perspective of representing our individual state seat. I would have to say that, tonight, I am speaking on behalf of the good men and women, the existing taxi licence holders, who live in my seat of Chatsworth. I also have to admit that, being a former assistant minister for public transport, with the blessing of my then minister I initially took carriage several years ago of the taxi industry. I will freely disclose that I know many members of the taxi industry.

I will also say at the outset that I fully support the member for Glass House, the shadow minister, in his move to have this disallowance motion passed tonight. Rather than come from a source of emotion, I am going to try to look at it this issue from a factual basis. That approach is based upon the people who have come to me.

The shadow minister, the member for Glass House, has given good reasons for effecting amendments to various sections of the Transport and Other Legislation (Hire Services) Amendment Regulation, subordinate legislation. There is nothing in this House that says that this side of the chamber, nor that side of the chamber, has the moral high ground when it comes to affairs and conditions of the human heart. I listen intently when I repeatedly hear members on the government side of the chamber talk about how proud they are to service the members of various unions that they have represented in the past. Do members know what I say to them?

A government member: Hear, hear!

Mr MINNIKIN: I say to them just that: hear, hear! In a democratic society they should have the right to represent and people should have the right, through voluntary association, to join a union. Equally, do not for one moment come into the chamber and think you have the moral high ground on everything. When you have 90-year-old Italian migrants who are crying about the lack of consultation that occurred on this particular issue it is heart-rending. I cannot name people on the public record tonight, but I have had plenty of people come to me, living within my own electorate but beyond that. I know that other members on this side have and I would assume, as well, various members on the government side have had people come to them about this very issue.

In my remaining few minutes not only do I want to support what the shadow minister is seeking to do here tonight, I want to also reiterate a couple of key points. First of all, everyone who has come to see me, whether it be at my electorate office, at a breakfast or at lunches, have all said that they simply want a level playing field. Sure, they have talked about other issues which are not privy to the debate here tonight, issues that the shadow minister touched on, such as vehicle safety inspections in terms of timing for both rideshare as well as the existing taxi industry, compensation, insurance issues et cetera. They will no doubt be subject to further debate. When it comes to the three central tenets of tonight's disallowance motion, they were well described by the shadow minister and are worth repeating.

The first is the removal of maximum age limits for taxis and ride-share vehicles. For example, take the good old Astron engine or the Starfire engine in the Sigma. My first car was a 1972 Corolla. The shadow minister made a very sage point: we do not want to have lemons on the road masquerading as taxis or ride-share vehicles. At the end of the day we want to promote, above all else, safety when it comes to the industry. The second tenet, the removal of the requirement to remove identifying features from a decommissioned taxi. That makes perfect practical common sense. The third is the removal of the extra charges provisions and a link to penalty units.

Going from a regulated industry to pretty much a deregulated industry is a very difficult thing for any government to do, but the one thing that comes through clearly time and time again is the lack of consultation. As recently as today, around about 8.30 this morning, I had three gentlemen approach me who said that initially, going into the last election, they were received by members of the now government but, funnily enough, the door has been slammed shut. The member for Woodridge, the Premier and the Deputy Premier were the three that they named without hesitation. They simply cannot get an audience on this particular issue. I implore members on that side of the chamber to work with the opposition to look at this disallowance motion. The three provisions the shadow minister is seeking to disallow here tonight make perfect common sense and, I know from the men and women I have spoken with, are very much supported. Thank you.