




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Personalised Transport Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.24 am): I welcome the member for Toowoomba South to the chamber. On behalf of the government I warmly congratulate a proud Queensland Rail employee, Emma Wardill, on the birth of her daughter. I understand that the father works somewhere in the precinct. I congratulate him, too.

Last Thursday I announced the Palaszczuk government's reforms to Queensland's personalised transport industry to create a new level playing field—a new level playing field to allow existing and new industries to compete fairly and safely under the same rules, a new level playing field that drives more competition, more choice and more services and ultimately puts downward pressure on fares.

The world is changing, and the expectations of customers are changing along with it. The government could not stand by and watch wave after wave of change sweep over the existing taxi industry without acting. Whether we liked it or not, change was being thrust onto the taxi industry. This government made the tough decision to remove the yoke off the back of the industry, and from 5 September this year, on this new level playing field, our great Queensland taxi industry will finally be able to compete. That is why this policy is informed by Labor values. It delivers innovation and competition with fairness—fairness by retaining exclusive access to the rank and hail markets; fairness by removing 80 pieces of regulation; fairness by waiving annual fees; and fairness by providing transitional payments.

These changes mean more jobs and business opportunities for Queensland. That is why I have been so pleased to see the announcement by Australian company GoCatch that they will commence operations in Queensland because of our government's reforms. I look forward to meeting with the CEO of GoCatch later this week in Brisbane to discuss their operations, which they intend to commence in Brisbane in the first instance. In fact, this morning GoCatch informed us that they had already registered over 600 drivers for the Queensland operation—a stunning demonstration of confidence in our reforms delivered by an Australian company.

I have been pleased to see the support of the community and business for these reforms as well. The RACQ said the reforms were 'a win for common sense' and highlighted the benefits for our tourism industry. The CCIQ said 'state government has reacted with balance in finding a compromise for the personalised transport industry' and that 'this is a win for customers and small business'. I note also the editorial support of the *Courier-Mail*—'Uber plan strikes right balance for industry'—the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—'it produces better end results for consumers than a monopoly'—and the *Townsville Bulletin*—'the government has responded to the public's wishes, which is at the heart of what it was elected to do'.

The government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders have access to safe, reliable and affordable personalised transport services. That is what we have done and that is what we will continue to do. That is at the core of this government's position on any number of issues that we have to confront—that we confront them and deliver fairness to the community and balance.