




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Passenger Transport Compliance

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.07 pm): I have always said that the best way to get on top of your brief as a shadow minister is to actually get out from behind the desk and see what is going on. To this end, a couple of Saturday nights ago, on 21 April, from 11.30 pm until just after 2 am, I undertook a taxi industry field trip into the Valley and the CBD. I joined taxi rank coordinators Len and John, along with Ronny from Black & White Cabs. We ventured into the Valley nightclub precinct, as well as the CBD pubs and clubs precinct. On that particular night, there were huge numbers in the Valley, whilst crowd numbers appeared moderate in the CBD. The taxi rank coordinators informed me that that situation can reverse, depending on the night of the week. We also popped into the ChaplainWatch program run by Lance Merghard. I congratulate him and his crew for the excellent job they do.

I have been told by many different stakeholders that since late last year when the regulations were changed to incorporate rideshare operators things have been getting out of hand. Let me stress that this speech is not about bagging rideshare operators or taxi operators. It is about providing a level playing field. It is about compliance or, moreover, a complete lack thereof. I saw major traffic congestion. I saw young men and women jaywalking and ducking in and out of traffic. I observed rideshare vehicles—and I know they were, because they displayed their company identification logos on their front and rear windscreens—taking up bus lanes so that public transport could not get through. It took forever to get through signalised intersections because of the free-for-all that was occurring. To be frank, it was a free-for-all between rideshare operators and taxis. It needs much better TMR compliance. In fact, it really was a complete cluster.

I am not sure whether the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, after pouring himself a chai latte and munching on a lentil burger after attending to his private emails, has ever ventured out to see the consequences of an industry that is seemingly bereft of compliance. If Minister Bailey is listening to this contribution then I suggest that he should.

Despite the pleas of various stakeholders requesting that TMR compliance officers actually start getting out and about to ensure that taxi operators and rideshare operators are complying with the relevant government regulations, it certainly, on the face of it, does not appear to be happening. I did not see one TMR compliance officer on the night I was out, but that is not to say that they were not there. Allegedly, there was one officer in the Valley for a brief period around 11.05 pm.

In any event, from what I have been told and will investigate further to ascertain, even when a fine is issued by a TMR compliance officer the paperwork takes 30 to 40 minutes. I think a simple iPad or similar app would do it a lot quicker. TMR needs to crackdown on compliance within the rideshare and taxi industry as a matter of priority.

(Time expired)