

**INQUIRY INTO OPERATION OF THE POINT TO POINT
TRANSPORT (TAXIS AND HIRE VEHICLES) ACT 2016**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 7 May 2020

Partially
Confidential

Date: 6 May 2020

The Director, Portfolio Committee No. 6

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Attention Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

Submission re Point to Point Transport Act 2016

Additional Assistance Payment Scheme (Point to Point Ref AA5000-884)

Late last year, my wife and I were among the 10,000 affected parties who signed the petition regarding the buy-back of taxi licences in NSW - a move we felt would have meant some degree of compensation for us as taxi plate owners who have suffered significant financial loss due to Point to Point and the subsequent devaluation of licences.

- We purchased two 50 year taxi licences direct from Government. This we feel places our investment in a different light in terms of risk and investment, and thus, we consider the assessment process for compensation to be inequitable.
- The past 4 year have been extremely stressful, and we remain very anxious over our financial future as we had invested a million dollars from our super fund in the taxi industry. Now at retirement age, we have been forced to re-evaluate all aspects of our lives in order to prioritise our future livelihood and wellbeing.
- Our Byron Bay taxi was a year ago, taken off the Byron fleet and plates returned to us as it could no longer operate at profit due to the government allowing Ride Share Operators to operate (without regulations.) We now derive no income from this vehicle. Of our other two vehicles since our figures were compiled for our application (ie. up to 2016), income from these taxis has since declined more than 25% and now with the corona virus the taxi industry has been brought to its knees.

The levy (\$1.10 per ride) was introduced in February 2018 to garner funds for the AAPS which has been running now for 2 years. We feel that it would be fair and reasonable to use these funds to assist those in the industry such as ourselves who have been significantly and negatively impacted by the reforms.

We are seeking –

- A fair and reasonable reimbursement for our taxi plates, which we purchased direct from the State Government, as their capacity to generate a financial return is now significantly diminished.
- Taxi owners and operators are in financial desperation and the compensation process has failed them, despite raking in millions of dollars through the \$1.10 levy and should now be distributed.
- Taxi Plate owners have seen the value of their plates, which many purchased as a way of providing themselves with superannuation, plummet from up to \$500,000+ to be worth less than a few thousand dollars due to the reform of 2017.
- We consider that the government and the transport minister have misjudged, or ignored, the demise of the taxi industry. Yet has funded an increased number of Community

Transport Vehicles to help the elderly when most of these people could get tai subsidy vouchers.

Thank you for this opportunity to further contribute to the submission process.