

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

The Director, Portfolio Committee No.6  
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Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

To the Director,

I am writing to you with regard to The Upper House Inquiry into the Point of Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicle) Act 2016.

I have been involved in the taxi industry since the 90s and have been owning and operating since then. The latest point to point transport reforms have undoubtedly affected the industry significantly and also created significant financial hardship for my family and myself.

I have always intended to use the taxi plates as a means of income for my family and me when I entered into retirement. It has always been a reliable source of income where I did not need to depend on any external assistance for financial support. This was a clear pathway to financial stability up until 2015 when the NSW government announced the legalisation of ride sharing and when Uber had disrupted the market.

Operating a taxi service is expensive. Not only are there costs involved with making the taxi roadworthy, there are costs of insurance, paying for other services and maintenance. In stark contrast to all the compulsory requirements that are regulating the taxi industry, Uber vehicles do not have to have this many compulsory requirements applied to them. This already creates an uneven playing ground at the beginning. This is compounded even more now that the government has legalised ridesharing. Uber drivers have not had to pour out their savings or to take out a loan to buy a taxi plate to operate a taxi service. Uber drivers have just had to sign up to a platform and they make money that way, with minimal operational costs and requirements. It is an inherently unfair system where taxi owners have had to purchase expensive plates to operate essentially the same service as what Uber drivers provide.

Since the legalisation of ride-sharing, I have suffered severe financial losses and reduced income. Right now, I am not receiving any income from any of my taxi plates. Along with the COVID-19 pandemic, I am in a place of significant financial hardship and am affected by this emotionally. I ask that the portfolio committee review the taxi industry and how it can help taxi plate owners in times of financial hardship.

Thank you for considering my letter and I look forward to hearing the outcome of these hearings.