

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

Name: Mr Dennis Southwell

Date Received: 18 May 2020

Partially
Confidential

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: The Upper House Inquiry into the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicle) Act 2016

My wife and I are the owners of Central Coast taxi plate No. . We purchased this plate in October 1979. For over twenty years we conducted the running of this taxi as a partnership. I, Dennis Southwell did the driving and mechanical repairs and my wife Susan attended to the book work involved.

On my retirement from full-time driving I became involved with the day to day running of the Central Coast taxi company as a Director as well as managing the service stations owned by the Company. I was also involved in the amalgamation of the company with Woy Woy Taxis.

We had for decades regarded the taxi plate licence as the superannuation for myself and my wife to support us in our retirement. It was our upbringing not to rely on handouts and we have worked hard all our lives so that we would not need to rely on the government for a pension.

But the value of our taxi plate licence has plummeted in response to government actions which have allowed relatively unregulated Ride Share operators to effectively compete against taxis which have for many, many years, and still do, operate under a regime of strict requirements.

Ride Share was permitted to enter the market and bypass the great majority of the strict operating rules that were forced upon taxis by the state government.

Our ability to earn an income from the taxi plate licence has been significantly reduced. And our ability to fund our retirement has become increasingly uncertain as the saleable value of the taxi licence plate has reduced so significantly.

I think that the damage done to the value of the taxi plate licences, from allowing Ride Share to enter what had been a regulated market, is unlikely to be reversed. But if there is to be some repair, this would require a levelling of the playing field. It would require a framework covering all stakeholders.

Being in and around the taxi industry for over 40 years, our main concerns about the current situation are the loss of value on our investment and the mental effect this has on us as older owners.

We strongly request that you consider our situation, and the situation of others like us, in any actions you make take.