

**Submission
No 26**

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

Name: Mrs Margaret Arkus

Date Received: 17 May 2020

To The NSW Government Point to Point Transport Review

15th May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Margaret Arkus and I have been a Taxi Driver with Wollongong Radio Cabs since 1963 and owner since 1973.

The last taxi purchased was brought in 1992 for \$195 000. This taxi was purchased to earn an income by driving and also as an investment for the future when I retire. When the NSW government allowed Uber into the market and created Point to Point Transport, it left taxi drivers and owners at a disadvantage.

I have lost approximately 40% of my income and also lost the value of our assets, a minimum of \$250,000. In 2006 I leased the cab for \$320 plus GST a week for 8 years. In 2014 I put the car out myself, but was unable to find drivers and was not able to drive myself as I was 74 years old so made the decision to lease the car out again. This time, in 2014, I was only able to get \$200 plus GST per week. The leasee gave the plates back, ending the lease, giving me no choice but to hand the plates to the RMS until another leasee can be found.

At 80 years old, I am not able to find another leasee and nobody is willing to buy a taxi. I have six months to find a leasee or Illawarra Taxi Network will kick me out and I will lose everything.

I would like to see that we get our asset value back. I sold a house and a two-bedroom unit to invest in taxi plates.

Your Sincerely,

Margaret Arkus